

AUTUMN 1991

ISSUE 30

STAR WARS--WHERE R U?

An interview with Timothy Zahn

Conducted by Ami Silberman
Broadcast over USENET and Prodigy
Submitted by Maggie Nowakowska

*Q. How did you get chosen for these books?
I like your work but you haven't done
anything media-related before.*

A. I frankly don't know exactly how Bantam offered me the Star Wars books. Lou Aronica and LucasArts had negotiated the deal in secret during 1989, and when Bantam supplied a list of possible authors to LucasArts, my name was at top. My best guess is that Bantam simply thought that my style and particular writing strengths would mesh well with this particular kind of book. I first learned of the whole thing when my agent called out of the blue in early November to tell me of Bantam's offer. It sounded both challenging and fun, so I accepted.

Q. How much plot control does Lucasfilm exercise? Do they specify certain things that have to happen or cannot happen?

A: My original instructions from LucasArts consisted of exactly two rules: the books were to start 3-5 years after RETURN OF THE

JEDI and I couldn't use anyone who'd been explicitly killed off in the movies. Aside from that, I was given essentially a blank check to do what I wanted. A couple of other rules came in later after I'd submitted my outline, but they required only minor changes in the story itself. LucasArts has complete veto power over everything I do, of course, but so far they've allowed me pretty much a free hand. Which is not to say they're not keeping close watch on what I'm doing. They are!

Q: Have you ever met George Lucas?

A: No. All the contact I've had with LucasArts has been through a liaison. Lucas did read the original outline, but I don't know whether or not he's read the final novel.

Q: Are there titles/working titles chosen for the next two books? Who chooses the titles?

A: The titles for the next two books are (at least at present) DARK FORCE RISING and THE

LAST COMMAND. Technically, LucasArts has already okayed these titles, but I'm always willing to change them if someone comes up with something better. My preference for the first book was WILD CARD, but it was bounced on the grounds that it would have conflicted with Bantam's "Wild Cards" series. My next favorite title was THE EMPEROR'S HAND, which Bantam also didn't like. Lou Aronica (I think) came up with HEIR TO THE EMPIRE, which LucasArts accepted. So, at the moment, I'm two for three in the title department.

Q: You make clear little details, such as the fact that lightsabers can be locked on. Did Lucasfilm provide you with background information on the STAR WARS universe? Or are you just trying to make things logical and consistent? Or both?

A: The STAR WARS movies themselves are always my basic source of "real" knowledge. Supplementing that is a tremendous body of background material put together by West End Games over the years for their STAR WARS Roleplaying Games. The W.E.G. source books saved me from having to reinvent the wheel many times in writing HEIR; the Interdictor Cruiser, for one example, is one of their creations. What I didn't get from the movies (e.g., the lightsaber lock), I invented, always with an eye to consistency with the movies.

Q: How big were the Death Stars? Han Solo says, "Size of a small moon," but that is rather vague. Is there any background information on that?

A: The only information I have comes from the to-be-published DEATH STAR TECHNICAL JOURNAL from West End Games. The number they've come up with is a diameter of 120 km for the first Death Star. Please note, though, that the book has NOT yet been approved by LucasArts, so that number should be considered tentative, at best.

Q: Are you able to answer the question, "Can you fly using the Force?" Obviously, large

objects like x-wings can be moved, yet the Emperor seems unable to save himself as he plunges down the shaft in RETURN OF THE JEDI.

A: I don't believe true flight is possible via the Force. As best I can tell from the movies, the telekinetic power seemed to function like a long, extra-powerful arm, i.e., a Jedi could lift something at a distance as long as he himself was planted (reasonably) solidly on the ground or ship deck or whatever. The Force can also be used to enhance a Jedi's own physical abilities--recall all those world class jumps Luke did in both EMPIRE and JEDI--but in all those instances, it's clear that he is jumping and not flying. The final clincher for me (if you don't mind arguing in reverse) is the one which brought up this discussion in the first place: if the Emperor could fly out of the reactor shaft, he should have done so. (Why there was an uncovered reactor shaft in the Emperor's personal quarters, we won't get into right now.)

Q: Speaking of the Emperor, do you think that it is possible for deceased users of the Dark Side of the Force to pop up as ghostly images and give advice to the surviving bad guys?

A: My personal feeling is that the Emperor won't be back. (He won't be back in my books, anyway.) In DARK FORCE RISING, I'll be offering the suggestion that for a Jedi to stay in this world requires another Jedi or proto-Jedi to be near him at his death, to whom he then somehow "anchors" himself. This would fit with the fact that Ben Kenobi only seemed to appear near Luke, whereas otherwise he should have flitted about offering advice to any rebel who needed it, or at least ranging around the galaxy scouting out what the opposition was up to.

Q: If movies 7, 8 and 9 of the STAR WARS series are made, will they have any relation or connection with your books? Alan Dean Foster wrote SPLINTER OF THE MIND'S EYE,

but no mention of that book was made in the following movies.

A: Since my books will form a more or less closed episode in the STAR WARS history, there will be no particular need for George Lucas to take them into account if/when he makes the last three movies. I figure the best I can reasonably hope for will be a passing reference or two to some of my characters or events as the movie characters go about their own, unrelated, business.

Q: *When are the next 2 books expected out?*

A: The current plan is to have the next two books come out in or around May 1992 and May 1993, though Bantam could change that schedule if they wanted to.

Q: *I heard that you sold the right to someone to have their name used in the book somewhere at auction, much as you did in DEADMAN SWITCH. Can you tell us where this happens?*

A: Two people bought their way into HEIR TO THE EMPIRE at a charity auction at Liberty-

Con in Chattanooga a couple of years ago. The first bid for the right to have his name appear, the second got to choose whether the first lived or died in the book. I went ahead and put both names in; the precise scene is probably pretty obvious. Incidentally, lest there be any misunderstanding here, please note that this was a charity auction, as was the DEADMAN SWITCH. I'm not personally making a dime off any of these auctions, nor would I ever want to. Frankly, the idea of an author selling spots in a book for his or her own profit strikes me as pretty tacky.

Q: *Any new BLACKCOLLAR books coming up?*

A: I still want to do a third BLACKCOLLAR book, sometime in the near future. However, with two more STAR WARS books ahead of it in the queue, plus three other books that Bantam had contracted for before the other deal came up, it's going to be a while before I can get to it.

Q: *What is the airspeed of an unladen swallow?*

A: African or European?

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Subscription Price: \$7.00 single issue, \$21.00 for 3 issues or \$28.00 for a year. Please specify issue starting number. Back issues available for \$2.00 each. Back issues available: 16, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29. All others are sold out.

Deadline for #31 — February 1, 1992

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A SPECULATIVE FABLE

by Mesarthim

Once upon a time—not so very long ago—a people called Dreamers, who had lived all their lives at the very edge of a magnificent Sea they called Imagination, beheld on its horizon a compelling Vision.

Their eyes had not seen, nor their souls heard, anything so grand. The Vision awoke in the Dreamers a sense of wonder; it beckoned from the distance with its magic and promise. Having seen, the Dreamers were no longer content to wander along the shoreline of the great Sea, experiencing the beautiful Vision from afar. They wanted to live the vision, know it fully; but to do this the Dreamers knew they would have to cast themselves into the Sea of Imagination. A few had been a short distance out into its wide waters, but none as far as the Vision beckoned. All knew that it would take much work, for, although the Sea's nature was to touch each Dreamer differently, they were joined by a common goal—to become one with the Vision.

And so, the Dreamers worked together, building a strong ship they named "FanDom". Those Dreamers who knew the Sea instinctively became its Crew. Gladly they worked at the business of keeping the ship on course. On-board the ship as well were many Passengers—Dreamers who shared with the Crew a love of the Vision and the Sea. Without the expertise of the Crew, the Passengers agreed to support the ship's voyage with their money and enthusiasm.

Once the "FanDom" was out to Sea, the perspective afforded by the shoreline lost, a curious thing happened. The Vision seemed to emanate from everywhere at once; no direction was sure. Since any way could be correct, the ship's Crew and Passengers agreed to follow many different courses in turn. At times, the heading was determined by the Crew, at times by the Passengers, but all were content for the Vision led them on.

On and on the "FanDom" sailed. Years went by. There were periods of storm, when clouds obscured the Vision for a short time, and during those periods of darkness, some Dreamers vanished from the ship, never to be seen again.

In its years at Sea, the "FanDom" took the Dreamers to many new and exciting places, some peaceful and welcoming, others enticing but challenging. All were wonderful in their own way. Certain Dreamers, having seen the Vision more clearly upon one vista, chose to stay. In truth, although the Vision shone very brightly in some places, the unknown and the promise of exciting new experiences drove the "FanDom" from many ports. The Dreamers aboard her, admitting that there may be wonders to be found beyond the shoreline of such places, did not want to expend too much time or effort searching any one place. Somehow, they had begun to sense limits upon them; for, although the Sea was boundless, time, they reasoned, was not.

Thus, the purpose of the "FanDom's" voyage changed, slowly but surely, until the Crew and Passengers came to love the Sea more than the Vision. Destination became secondary, the voyage everything.

Time went on and the "FanDom", always touching different ports, took on new Dreamers. Each saw the Vision from a different perspective but hoped that the strong ship would take them to the magic and wonder that called to them. Who else but other Dreamers understood or knew the way?

Until they were aboard, those Dreamers had no way of knowing that those aboard the "FanDom" had become jaded. No longer were the Crew and Passengers separate; the lack of new Dreamers over the years had made it necessary for those aboard her to motivate themselves. All support, enthusiasm and impetus came from within. The Vision had become meaningless.

About this time, the general consensus was that there were no new places to discover, no

unknown shorelines on the horizon. All had been seen before. The Dreamers' world had circled about them.

Now, some have said that the Sea turned against the Dreamers, others that the Dreamers had come to love the "FanDom" more than the Vision. Whatever the reason, all aboard the ship decided—through approval or silence—that the "FanDom", in order to remain at Sea, hold to a fixed and familiar course. A safe and enjoyable route was decided upon between well known ports favored by the most respected and influential Dreamers, for it was never said, but it was understood, that they had done (and continued to do) the true "work" of the "FanDom" and so should be heeded.

As the predictable route of the "FanDom" became known, fewer and fewer Dreamers sought to board her. Yet wanderlust was still in many. The limits of the Sea were acknowledged but still unfamiliar to those Dreamers left on shore. Even though the "FanDom" was on a pointless voyage in familiar waters, Dreamers continued to straggle aboard. Some hoped to turn the ship back out to Sea, others knew only that it was better to be aboard her than to remain forever on shore.

So they believed and so it was for some; but sadness grew among the Dreamers who still felt the warmth of the Vision in their hearts. It grew and spread until all aboard the "FanDom" carried it. It weighed their hearts and weakened their sight. "The Vision has deserted us!" they cried. It did little good for those who still saw it wavering in the distance to point toward the horizon. The "FanDom" sailed in a circle, never far from the familiar shoreline of Snugglers Bay, for only there were most of the Dreamers happy.

Nearly all of its lifeboats were away and the great ship's hull abused before her Dreamers sensed the Vision was still alive, if not for their eyes, then for those of the Dreamers who had sailed away in the "FanDom's" lifeboats.

In panic and fear, those aboard the "FanDom" looked to each other for answers. Some blamed the "Deserters" for sailing on. How many they had watched vanish on the horizon; and if they had not done harm to those struggling in the Sea, neither had the ship sailed

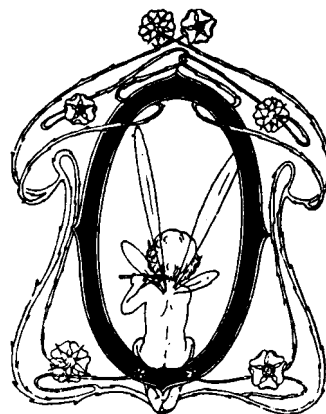
to their aid, for to follow would have meant leaving their well-loved Bay. How could they know how sad those Dreamers had been to leave the ship, how could they understand why so many would not return to the "FanDom" but chose another course far out to Sea?

Becalmed, a great sadness lay over the "FanDom" and its Dreamers. The Bay is still a fair place, but the Sea tugs at their hearts. Memories of less grand places that had been but briefly seen, and of the Vision they had focused on too narrowly, began to lap at the ship's worn hull.

The Sea itself would break the spell upon them, as it had many ships in ages past. Time would progress and tide recede and a ship too long near shore would be left upon the sand.

This fable does not end as others do. No more can be said of the Dreamers on their good ship. She can be seen from afar, by Dreamers in their smaller ships and those still longing to follow their hearts out to Sea. The Vision is seen differently by their eyes but its promise has not been dimmed by time. These Dreamers know the great ship is still sound; she need only turn her prow away from hypnotic shores. The Sea has changed, new winds blow gentle currents. If the "FanDom" will but brave the Sea again, she will find other ships to sail beside, Dreamers too unsure of such wide water, who wait to board her, and the Vision ... as bright, fulfilling, magical and grand as first they saw it not so long ago.

Once upon a time ... is now.



THE GREAT BIRD OF THE GALAXY IS GONE

On October 24, 1991, Eugene Wesley Roddenberry passed away from a massive blood clot. He was 70 years old and had been in poor health for some time.

It is ironic that he should die so soon after the official celebration of STAR TREK's 25th anniversary, when ST is experiencing such a phenomenal resurgence — ST:TNG has just entered its fifth season, the sixth ST movie with the original cast is nearing completion, and the U.S. Postal Service has issued space exploration stamps and is using a special Enterprise design to postmark mail.

As we mourn Gene Roddenberry's passing, can we possibly imagine what our world would have been like if there had been no STAR TREK? Personally, I find it inconceivable. ST was an integral part of my formative years, when I aspired to be as logical as Mr. Spock and to practice the tenets of IDIC.

The 1960's were a time of incredible social turbulence, of fears of nuclear annihilation, of whole populations rioting in the streets and military response turned on the American people in retaliation, a time of political assassination on a scale never before imagined, of involvement in foreign wars for the sake of political office, a time of changing sexual mores and social structures, and a time when a new generation came of age and asked "why?" of the world around them.

It was in the midst of this turmoil that the dream of a man came to fruition and, through its medium, he offered the world hope for the future and the possibility of living to see it. How many people were influenced by STAR TREK's message? How many paused to

consider the world's problems as they were presented in a different setting? It is impossible to even guess.

STAR TREK ran from September 8, 1966 to June 3, 1969. Apollo 11 set down on the moon just over a month later. The United States was committed to having a man on the moon before the decade was out, but how many at NASA were inspired by STAR TREK? The message was there and it was clear: "The human race will make it to the moon and beyond. Our destiny lies in the stars."

In the 1970's, when ST began to run in syndication, the dream of Gene Roddenberry exploded into the radiance of a supernova. ST fandom and ST conventions were born and suddenly millions of people who had felt alone and ostracized because they still believed in ST's message found that there were countless others who felt the same way that they did.

I was one of them and it changed my life irrevocably. My involvement in ST fandom broadened my personal horizons beyond the scope of a small Texas town. It put me into contact with people from all over the world that I would never have met and led me to travel to destinations I would never have visited otherwise. It helped me learn tolerance, understanding, patience and love. It brought me joy and laughter and gave me limitless expanses to explore in my imagination.

Gene Roddenberry's mortal life has ended, but in a very real sense he will live on as long as people look up at the stars and yearn to go "where no one has gone before."

GENE RODDENBERRY

August 19, 1921 - October 24, 1991

REVIEWING THE FLEET



ANAKIN — written and illustrated by Z. P. Florian, 6214 Waterway Drive, Falls Church, VA 22044, \$8.00 postpaid, 90 pages.

Reviewed by Maggie Nowakowska.

Any zine that makes me laugh out loud with delight over the dialogue is a welcome addition to my collection! Not that *Anakin* by Z. P. Florian is a humor zine; no, its subject is as serious as the eternal query after the source of evil. But in her telling of how Anakin Skywalker came to be Darth Vader, and the consequences thereof for a future generation, her characterizations are witty and adult and free of sentimental cliches that feel good but cloud difficult questions.

Not that feeling is missing here. Passion abounds, but it is serious, down-to-the-soul passion that covers the range of human lust; power, recognition, sex, love, wealth; this is not the Saturday night special kind of desire that yawns awake Sunday morning, sated once more and willing to live an uneventful life until next weekend.

The interaction between the younger Palpatine and young Anakin Skywalker alone are worth the modest cost of the zine. This is a would-be Emperor fleshed out with family background and a personality that make him a perfect foil for Skywalker's cold passions. There is not much discussion of philosophy here, but philosophy is not the author's point. Rather, she explores the compromises and dependencies of high ambition. Her Palpatine is an obsessive Force-user, ambitious but aware of his lack of the social graces so necessary to politician

success. Anakin is beautiful, graceful and increasingly willing to use his charisma to gain knowledge and power. And yet both are very ordinary—with Palpatine's complaints about a greedy father who always seems to bollox his son's plans, or with Anakin's continual slips into a young man's bravado.

Obi-Wan, Luke and Leia's mother, Bail Organa and others are supporting characters, each dazzled by and drawn to Anakin Skywalker in his or her own way.

Florian's style of writing hits the high points of the plot development with the expectation that the reader can fill in the in-between action. A warning if you are unfamiliar with non-English fiction: be prepared for a dialogue that is not colloquial American English. Florian is Hungarian; the vocabulary she uses may ring oddly to the American ear at first. Don't let it bother you, please; the unfamiliar language support Florian's fresh angle on characters and subject, and more than make up an occasional awkwardness. Anyone who has come from a multi-lingual home, or who has command of a second tongue, will recognize the variations of inflection and imperative that appear in *Anakin*. And, although I hope Florian has her next story read by a native speaker to clear up any occasional misusage, I likewise hope that such editing does not destroy the wonderful flavor of the writing.

There is a follow-up story in *Anakin* that expands the references in the lead story to a Wookiee and a Corellian child who survive an early Palpatine assassination. Florian's Han is the familiar teenage male hacker, techie-wise with tunnel vision; her Chewie has very

interesting reasons for his involvement with young Solo. Perhaps the different use of language is most obvious here as it comes up against the familiar image of Han as a space cowboy/trucker/all-American Mr. Independence; however, once I put aside noticing that Florian's Han failed to match the stereotype, and just went with the characterization, it all worked. And, I have certainly read such young man's language in stories out of Eastern Europe; there's more than one measure for a hot-shot here on Earth as well as in the greater Universe!

I'm assuming Florian did the art—which is competent and direct linework in keeping with

her story. Her Anakin certainly captured the attention of a young man in our office!

If you're a fan who really likes slick zines, be warned that *Anakin's* focus is on the story, not the production. Nothing fancy here, just double-space, full-size type with dark and legible printing. The binding is 2 brads in three-hole punch paper with a neon bond cover. For me, the presentation was completely acceptable; I could read it late at night after a full day on the computer without my eyes going cross-eyed or my wrist aching from trying to hold it up in bed.

In summary, I highly recommend *Anakin*; it's a fine addition to SW fan fiction!

Editor's Desk

PRICE CHANGE GOES INTO EFFECT THIS ISSUE

Welcome to SOUTHERN ENCLAVE #30. You'll note a new look with this issue. I thought our thirtieth issue would be a good time to try out an updated format that I've been playing with for a while. Hope you like it!

Now the bad news. Due to sheer economic necessity, I've been forced to raise the price of SE as of this issue. After having to put over \$200 of my own money into the last issue, I sat down and figured up exactly what it was costing to produce SE. As an example, SE#29 cost \$7.50 a copy to produce (that's including postage), yet subscribers only paid \$5.00. As you can see, that put me \$2.50 in the red for each copy. Multiplied by 75, it starts to add up. And lest you think I've been splurging on printing, that cost was as low as I could find, with me standing at Kinko's and xeroxing until smoke starting coming out of the machine! If I'd gone with offset printing, I could have added an additional \$250 to the cost!

Therefore, as of this issue, the cost of SE will go up to \$7.00 per issue, \$21/three and \$28.00 for a year. I know that seems a little steep, but consider that you're getting a 50-60 page reduced print zine for \$7.00. Hey, where else can you get such a deal??

Alas, there is also a very real, very serious reason in the Real World why I've been forced to raise prices. In July, Texas Instruments, where my husband Randy has worked as a computer operator and programmer for 15 years, announced that they would be laying off 3200 people, 1300 of those in the Dallas area. On August 9th, Randy was asked to take "voluntary early retirement". We were devastated, since I had left my full-time job at the end of May to go back to school. After I stopped hyperventilating and sobbing hysterically, I got to work looking for another job, burdened with the knowledge that if Randy lost his job, I'd be responsible for supporting our family. I had little hope of his finding something else for quite a while. Not only is the economy in Dallas severely depressed but Randy is in poor health (he has severe hypertension and an enlarged heart), so he would have a hard time finding another job. As far as the zines went, there would be no possible way I could spare a penny to subsidize them.

By the end of September, things were looking up a bit. Randy had decided to refuse to retire quietly; if TI wanted him out, they'd have to lay him off and (continued on page 45)

PERSONAL STATEMENT

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is in reply to a personal statement published in SE #29. No further statements from either group will be published on this subject.)

FROM: ALLIANCE--THE STAR WARS FAN ASSOCIATION OF ITALY

Although we don't think we should be bothered with this fan group's statements, we do feel we should make known the reason why these folks cannot help but show their pointless animosities.

As a matter of fact, this group is -- as everyone knows in Italian fannish circles -- a group of failed con organizers who approached ALLIANCE and several other media organizations (including the STAR TREK ITALIAN CLUB and the INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC MODELLERS' SOCIETY (IPMS-ITALY) during our 1989 STAR WARS convention with the proposal of joining efforts with them in the organization of the very first Italian MediaCon, to be held, we were told, sometime in 1991 in Milan.

Even though they stated they had the knowledge and experience necessary to run a convention--and we say this with no exaggeration, as well as handle all of the legal and bureaucratic aspects provided for by Italian law, time and facts proved they were not even capable of running a "fan party", let alone a full-scale convention.

They were slothful and unreliable, totally lacking in pragmatic attitudes and coordination, completely ignorant of Italian laws specifically and severely regulating this kind of event, and--last but not least--it was feared by the con organizers, particularly the highly experienced IPMS-Italy members, who had volunteered to serve as legal and organizational advisors in the most troublesome and risky areas of the con enterprise, that their con management was too risky, which finally brought all the organizations involved (including ALLIANCE, IPMS-ITALY, and STAR TREK ITALIAN CLUB) to dissociate them formally from the whole con affair, which, by then, looked very shady to all of us.

Following the sinking of their ambitious con enterprise, this group of would-be con promoters hastily planned a much smaller convention to be carried out on their own (also designed to fail), as well as a multimedia zine to support it, which was afterwards turned into a SW/ST zine and--finally!--into an all-SW zine (you can guess the name of it).

We did believe there was enough room, in fandom, for everyone to carry out one's own ideas in one's own ways--and at one's own risk, as well as enough freedom for everyone to freely decide whether to join someone else's ideas/plans or not.

We were wrong.

Right from the first issue onwards of their zine, they immediately began to address--in writing--offensive comments towards ALLIANCE and IPMS-ITALY, mocking our zine editorials and contents, and even spreading groundless rumors about an "early demise" of our organization!

And then what? We were asked to publish their zine ads! We really thought they had a "unique" way to ask support of people!

By that time, they had overshot the mark, though, as everyone began to express the feeling that they didn't want that group of people to be any longer involved with their fannish activities, let alone con projects.

Despite all this, their presence at our convention was indeed always civilly tolerated, though not enthusiastically welcome. And since our most recent 1991 SW convention was carried out by at least five different fan groups and organizations, as well as attended--without any distinction--also by SF/ST fans, role-players and plastic modellers coming from all over Italy, it appears that these folks' claim that our "conventions, RPG tournaments and meetings are all very elite", clearly refers to all events that are not involved in.

Despite our 1989 first experience with this group nearly turning into a nightmarish "jour-

ney into darkness", we didn't give up and have continued to cooperate with many other (and definitely much wiser and experienced) fan groups and organizations, as our latest convention largely demonstrated.

We do believe that "to be fans devoted to SW" doesn't necessarily mean "to be fans obsessed with SW" and with the idea of whether or not their "love for the Saga" should come first or second to their wisdom and sense of pragmatism whenever dealing with such risky and delicate matters as con organization.

It simply cannot be denied that our attitudes have helped SW fandom grow and—most important of all—earn quite a lot of credibility and respect in media and SF fandom. We do believe that whenever the respect of law and people's safety are involved, it's everybody's duty, ours included, to have "the deepest commitment, the most serious mind" in dealing with things which unfortunately cannot just be dealt with by "love, goodwill and friendship."

Unlike others, we do have a great respect for ourselves, laws and our love for SW.

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The illo on page 5 is from the Dover Clip-Art Series, "Art Nouveau Initials".

CLIPPINGS

Thanks to Carol Peters, A. G. Steyn and everyone else who sent clippings. Due to limited space, we couldn't print them all.

PHOTOS



Z. P. Florian as the Black Wizard Krynn, taken at Balticon.

(Note: I have purchased a set of photocopy screens recently and the above photo is the first trial with them. If these reproduce well, then I will be able to screen photos for the price of a xerox copy—essentially for nothing, since I can do them at work. So, send in those photos!)

CREW ROSTER

Michelle Malkin

I've put out several books under my pseudonym Mercedes Lackey (or is it Lois McMaster Bujold? I get confused easily.). I'm 3" taller than I am and weigh 40 pounds less than I do. No? Okay, so I'm 3" shorter than I'd like to be, weigh 40 pounds more than I should, and don't write anything as well as the two talented ladies whose names I tried to steal. I am, however, still employed in a job (case-worker and employment and training counselor for the Pennsylvania Welfare Department) that has given me equal share of satisfaction and aggravation for nearly 17 years; have been a science fiction reader, fan writer and publisher, con attendee and book collector over the past 38 years; am interested in history, anthropology, mythology and folklore; love cats and collect cat figurines. I also collect video tapes and would be very willing to trade copy for copy of British TV shows and anything with Harrison Ford or Gareth Thomas. I'm 44, a liberal Democrat and a Secular Humanist. I'm willing to discuss any of the above, but I will not argue about any of it. I firmly believe that we are all entitled to our own opinions, no matter how much we may disagree (as long as no one gets hurt).

Cheree Cargill

I'm 38 years old, married for 16 years to Randy Cargill, and we have one daughter, Katy, who is now four. I'm a native Texan and have lived all my life in the Dallas area. We have two very spoiled German shepherds, Thor and Crusader, who think they're our other children. I got my B.A. in European History in 1976, which explains why I type for a living. I've spent the last 12 years as a legal word processing specialist and have just started a new job as computer system manager for a mid-size lawfirm in Dallas. I first got into fandom in 1972 when I discovered that I was not the last living Star Trek fan in the world. I burned out after about six years and wasn't active in fandom until 1981 when I was suddenly hit right between the eyes with an overpowering

lust for Harrison Ford and RAIDERS. From there, I rapidly backtracked into SW fandom and the rest, as they say, is history. Fannish interests are SW, Indy, Ford, ST:TNG, and zine publishing. Other interests include needlecraft (primarily counted cross-stitch), reading (sf, history, biographies and science books), 35mm photography, old movies and video (over 300 tapes at present), and travelling the backroads of Texas.



Maggie Nowakowska

I've been an active media fan for about 15 years, as a writer, artist, one-time editor (*Jedi-stardarkfalconknight*), coordinator (SW Fanzine Lending Library 1986-87), and general LoCer. Along with SW, my fannish interests have included Westerns, ST, B&B, TWIN PEAKS, and British insanities such as BLACKADDER and RED DWARF. Recently, I've published post-JEDI stories in STARQUEST, TREMOR IN THE FORCE, ALLIANCE and BRIGHT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE, and articles in SE and ALLIANCE. Fandom may not be a way of life for me, but it's a pretty invasive extracurricular activity. I'm 42, about 5'8" and blondish (most of the time). I've lived in Seattle since 1970 and with Foxwyf Susan Matthews since 1979. I've worked for the Boeing Company for nearly 13 years as a graphic artist in electronic publishing. My nonfan interests include gardening, folk and traditional music, studies in religion, mythology and philosophy, rearranging the household decor, and attempts at writing fiction for money.

BULLETIN BOARD

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Martha Wells on the sale of her fantasy novel, *THE ELEMENT OF FIRE* to Tor Books. Watch for the book to be on the shelves late next year.

Ming Wathne on the birth of her grandson, Garrett Thomas Wathne, born August 2, 1991.

CONDOLENCES TO...

Mary Urhausen on the loss of her mother.
Leanne Wingo on the loss of her father.

ARTISTS/AUTHORS EXCHANGE

LOOKING FOR ARTISTS, Authors, Poets, Puzzle makers for *BRIGHT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE* #2. SASE to Ming Wathne, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110 for publishing outline.

WRITERS WANTED for new fanzine publications. Any topic within reason considered. If interested, write to: Stephen Nelmes, U.K. Star Wars Fan Club, 8 Victoria Close, Thornbury, Bristol, Avon B512 1JE, Great Britain.

PENPALS WANTED

A. G. Steyn
Paul-Ruecker-St. 69
W-4100 Duisberg 1
Germany

NOTICE

From: Dr. Mary Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402

I regret to announce that Samia and I will not be publishing another issue of *THE WOOKIEE COMMUNE*. If you have had a submission conditionally accepted by us for WC#8, you should have received notification from us by now, thanking you and

urging you to place your submission with one of the other SW zines. If you had a SASE with me for information about WC#8, you also should have been notified that we are ceasing publication. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all of the fans who have supported the *Commune* over its 8 years, both with their contributions of art and writing, and with their purchases. It's been quite an adventure!

ERRATA

From Nora Mayers:

Seen in an office memo: "Re: Proposed Exercise Class. Contrary to popular belief, yoga is not: (a) edible; (b) Mr. Berra's first name; (c) a religion; or (d) Luke Skywalker's mentor."

From Gian Paolo Gasperi:

"Lucasfilm has recently informed us -- in writing -- that they are about to release the SW and TESB radio shows on audiocassettes for the U.S. market. ... I'm not sure what this new move really means, but according to some friends of mine, the 'Return of SW' is more than just a speculation now!"

From Pat Grunenwald, Forces of the Empire, 4374 Okemos Road, B-204, Okemos, MI 48864:

In order to foster more involvement between our various SW fan groups, any SE reader who would like to sample *BOUND BY THE FORCE*, the Forces of the Empire newsletter, just write to Pat at the above address and identify yourself as an SEer.

From Cheree Cargill:

Actual legal citation from a document I recently drafted:

United States Fidelity & Guaranty Co. v. Jones, 87 F.2d 346 (5th Cir. 1937).

Mark Hamill

WHAT KIND OF GIRLS AND WHAT ADDRESS?

I saw *Star Wars* nine times and I think Mark Hamill is real cute. In most teen magazines there is little about him, but I would like to know more. What's his address? Does he like girls with long or short hair? And what other info can you give me?

Elizabeth Sweton,
Fredericksburg, Va.

Dear Elizabeth,

Thanks for the compliment—nine times! Wow! If you'd like to write, send your letter care of the Sackheim Agency, 9301 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, Ca. 90210. I get all my mail there.

As for your question about long or short hair—frankly, that's not the thing I look for most in a girl. The length of her hair isn't as important as her personality. A girl should be intelligent, self-aware, and thoughtful—that's what counts for me! Let's see, you wanted to know something else about me. Well, I read a lot in my spare time and I've got a new movie coming out which I hope you'll see as often as you saw *Star Wars* (nine times!)—it's called *Stingray* and I hope you enjoy it, Liz!

WHERE DOES HE LIVE?

This may seem silly, but I'll ask anyway. First, does Mark Hamill live in New York? And second, where would he live if he didn't live there? Okay?

A Mark Hamill fan,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Fan,

Your question isn't silly at all, but you do have some facts mixed up. I don't live in New York—I live in Malibu in Los Angeles. My place is on the beach there, and I love it because I can participate in loads of water sports. But I'll tell you a secret—if I had to move tomorrow, New York is where I'd want to be. I'm in love with Greenwich Village and with New York's west side! There are a lot of creative people living there. Right now, though, I'm enjoying myself at the beach—there's always lots to do!

Does Mark Hamill have any brothers and sisters? I've got eight and are they ever a headache! Could you please ask Mark?

Susan Speckley,
Madison Wisconsin

Dear Susan,

I had to laugh when I read your question—you sure sound like a typical member of a large family! Guess what? So am I! I have four great sisters—Terry, Jeannie, Jan, and Kim—and two brothers—Will (he's a shrink) and Patrick. Pat's the youngest. Life can really get hectic with so many people in one family—right? I learned one thing though, coming from a large family makes you more independent and that's an asset. You'll see, Susan!



On The Spot!

Hello Again & Welcome To 16's Ever Popular *On The Spot*. As Regular 16 Readers Know, Each Month We hand This Column Over To One Of Your Faves—And Ask Him Or Her To Answer The Questions Sent In By Their 16 Friends! This Month The Luscious Lead Of *Star Wars*, Mark Hamill, Does The Honors, And Personally Answers Your Questions!

WHERE WAS HE BORN?

I'd like to know when and where Mark Hamill was born? Is it true he was born in Japan?

Laura Rosen,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Laura,

No, I wasn't born in Japan, but I did live there for a time. I was actually born in Oakland, California—the date was September 25, 1951. That makes me an old codger of 26! The reason people think I was born in Japan is because my family traveled a great deal—my dad was a navy captain. Gosh, I've lived in L.A., all over Virginia, New York, and various parts of Japan of course. All that moving was an experience let me tell you!

VITAL STATISTICS

I'm in love with Mark Hamill of *Star Wars*! How tall is he? How much does he weigh? What's the color of those gorgeous eyes—blue or gray? I hope that's not asking too much! Thanks.

Jennifer Graham,
North Haven, Ct.

Dear Jennifer,

It's really flattering to know how much you liked me in *Star Wars*. Thank you! Now, let's get down to what you wanted to know. My eyes are blue—not gray. Sometimes it's hard to tell on the movie screen I know. As for my height and weight, I'm 5'8" tall and weigh 130 pounds. I hope that fills the bill!

WHAT ELSE WOULD HE BE?

If that livin' doll from *Star Wars* wasn't an actor, what would he be doing now? Bet you can't answer this one!

Janet Hobbs,
Athens, Ga.

Dear Janet,

Maybe someone else can't, but I sure can answer this one Janet! Ever since I can remember I knew I was going to be an actor. As a kid I was always involved with puppets and magic and saw things like *Sweet Charity* and *The Odd Couple*—saw those great people doing comedy and getting paid for it—that's when I knew I'd been on the right track all along. Once, and only once, did the thought of becoming a commercial artist ever occur to me. I'm a pretty decent cartoonist and painter when I put my mind to it! Hope that answers it for you Janet!

WHAT DID HE DO BEFORE?

Wasn't super-sexy Mark Hamill in an old TV series? I'd really like to know.

Sincerely,
Clarice Williams,
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Clarice,

Thanks for remembering. Yes, I was on a TV show called *The Texas Wheelers*. It didn't stay on very long, but I loved doing it! I was on *General Hospital* for awhile too—I played "Jesse Brewer's" nephew. I was 20 and the nephew was supposed to be 14! It's a good thing I look young for my age huh?! Do you want to see how I looked on my own series (*The Texas Wheelers*) playing the part of "Doobie"? Here I am! What do you think Clarice, didn't I look different?



Well, I've run out of space so I'll have to stop now. It was fun! I didn't know how I'd make out at answering questions in a magazine—but I did it! I'll keep on seeing you in the pages of 16, so stay in touch!

Mark Hamill: His Ticket To Stardom!

What are we talking about when we say his *ticket to stardom*? Why, "Star Wars," of course!

MANY young actors come to Hollywood, put their time in and wait for that all



important "big break"! They're all confident that if given the right vehicle, they know they can make it! Sometimes that chance is by way of a television series—like "Happy Days" was for Henry Winkler or "Welcome Back, Kotter" was for John Travolta.

But for a very talented, good-looking and promising young actor by the name of Mark Hamill, that break was by way of the biggest movie of the year, "Star Wars." Mark has "paid his dues" after seven years as an actor, and fully deserves the praise and recognition given to him for his remarkable performance as Luke Skywalker.

Filming "Star Wars" was much more to Mark than just a job, it was really a lot of *fun*! He knew at the time they were making it that "Star Wars" was going to be a *very special* movie! Although Mark never dreamed it would be

such a phenomenal hit, he was fully aware of its uniqueness.

The nicest thing about "Star Wars," for Mark, is that it opened important doors for him that he may have had to wait a little longer for had he *not* gotten the movie! Mark's just completed his latest movie entitled "Stingray," and the offers for good roles in movies and television are being handed to him left and right! Mark Hamill is a very lucky and talented guy, and of course, he's grateful to "Star Wars"—his ticket to stardom!



MARK FLYING HIGH!



Handsome and super-talented Mark Hamill, who has given so many outstanding performances on TV, is now one of the hottest young stars in Hollywood as a result of his role as the daring and daring hero of the season's most sensational success, the movie *Star Wars*. *Star Wars* is Mark's first movie, and in the part of Luke Skywalker, the brave and handsome farmer who suddenly finds himself battling the wicked creatures who rule the universe, Mark is a real stand-out. Mark, born on September 25, 1951, is five feet, eight inches tall, and weighs 135 pounds. You can write to him at the Sargent Agency, 222 N. Canon Dr., Beverly Hills, Cal. 90210—and tell him you read about him in 161.



Mark: before & after

Dear Nancy,

Is it true that Mark Hamill lost his nose in an accident? If so, could you tell me how it happened and include "before" and "after" pix. I am desperate to know what happened.

Lisa Conn
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Lisa,

Just after the filming of *Star Wars*, Mark had a terrible car accident in which his car *and* his body—mostly his face—were totalled. Mark was incredibly lucky, he not only came out of an eight-week coma, but he had fantastic doctors who "put his face back together". His nose does look somewhat different now—see for yourself.

'Star Trek' creator Roddenberry dies

New York Times News Service

Gene Roddenberry, creator of the science-fiction television series *Star Trek*, which inspired six feature films and legions of space-age devotees known as Trekkies, died Thursday at Santa Monica Hospital Medical Center in California. He was 70 and lived in Los Angeles.

Mr. Roddenberry had been ill for about six weeks and died of a blood clot, a spokesman for Paramount Pictures said. But a spokeswoman for the hospital said the cause of death was listed as cardiopulmonary arrest.

Mr. Roddenberry, a tall, soft-spoken man with a silver mane and a dazzling imagination, was a much-decorated B-17 pilot in the Pacific in World War II, a pilot for Pan American World Airways, a speechwriter for a Los Angeles police chief, a writer for *Dragnet* and *Naked City*, and head writer of the 1950s television series *Have Gun, Will Travel*.

But with *Star Trek*, which debuted in 1966 and ran until 1969 on NBC, Mr. Roddenberry took a generation of viewers along on a journey into "space, the final frontier," aboard the Starship Enterprise, to "explore strange new worlds, to

seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no man has gone before."

It was an idea that, in various permutations, consumed more than a third of Mr. Roddenberry's life and made believers out of the most skeptical critics.

And it spawned a worldwide fascination that led to Trekkie conventions, books, T-shirts, lunch boxes, toys, reruns of its 79 original episodes in 48 countries, a half-dozen feature films starting in 1979, and a sequel series, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, which was launched in 1987 and is still running, with audiences of more than 12 million households.

"Few ideas in the annals of motion picture and television history have inspired more passion and allegiance on the part of the audience than has *Star Trek*," said Brandon Tartikoff, chairman of Paramount Pictures, which made both the series and the feature films.

For Mr. Roddenberry, it was more than entertainment.

"It has become a crusade of mine to demonstrate that TV need not be violent to be exciting," he told the *Los Angeles Times* in May. "We



Gene Roddenberry . . . saw *Star Trek* as more than entertainment.

stress humanity, and this is done at considerable cost. We can't have a lot of dramatics that other shows get away with — promiscuity, greed, jealousy. None of those have a place in *Star Trek*."

Eugene Wesley Roddenberry was born in El Paso, Texas, on Aug. 19, 1921, but grew up in Los Angeles after his father went into law enforcement there.

Survivors include his wife, the former Majel Leigh Hudec; a son, Eugene, two daughters, Darleen Incopero and Dawn Compton; a brother, Robert; a sister, Doris; and his mother, Carolyn Glen Roddenberry.

Dallas Morning News, 10-27-91

From Wire Reports

TALK OF THE TOWN: There were no aliens, swashbucklers or killer sharks at director Steven Spielberg's latest production. He married actress Kate Capshaw Saturday night at a ceremony at his Long Island estate. Actors Harrison Ford and Dustin Hoffman were among the 100 guests at the tent wedding on the bank of Georgica Pond. A garden was planted in honor of the occasion, and a rabbi was flown from California to perform the traditional Jewish ceremony. The rehearsal dinner was held Friday night at an Italian restaurant, where guests had to say a secret password to attend.

Dallas Morning News, 10-91

Q After hearing a lot about the new *Indiana Jones* TV series, I was surprised and disappointed it didn't show up anywhere in the new season lineups. What gives? When will it be on? — R.B.

A The Young *Indiana Jones* Chronicles is expected to find its way onto the tube as an ABC midseason replacement show. It's been shooting in a variety of far-flung locales, from England to Egypt, with 22-year-old Sean Patrick Flanery as the lead. It spans the years 1908 to 1916, when Indy was a lad.

Disaster-film producer Irwin Allen dies

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Irwin Allen, producer of big-budget disaster epics including *The Towering Inferno* and *The Poseidon Adventure*, died Saturday of a heart attack. He was 75.



Irwin Allen

Mr. Allen, a Malibu resident who had been semiretired for the past year, died at Santa Monica Hospital Medical Center, said hospital

spokeswoman Grace Cheng. His health had been failing for the past few months, she said.

Mr. Allen earned the nickname "Master of Disaster" because of his hits, including *The Poseidon Adventure* in 1972, *The Towering Inferno* in 1974 and *The Swarm* in 1978. *The Towering Inferno* received an Academy Award nomination for best picture.

One of his early films, an environmental picture called *The Sea Around Us*, won the 1952 Academy Award for best documentary feature.

"No, I'm not going to run out of

disasters," Mr. Allen said in a 1977 interview. "Pick up the daily newspaper, which is my best source for crisis stories, and you'll find 10 or 15 every day. . . . People thrive on tragedy. It's unfortunate, but in my case, it's fortunate. The bigger the tragedy, the bigger the audience."

Mr. Allen also was noted for science fiction and fantasy works, such as the film and television series *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* and the television shows *Lost in Space* and *Land of the Giants*.

He is survived by his wife, Sheila. Funeral services were set for Wednesday.

Dallas Morning News, 11-2-91

Parade Magazine, 7-28-91



Carrie Fisher weds Paul Simon, August 1983. It didn't last

Q Songwriter Paul Simon—has he given up on marriage? How many wives has he had? How many kids?—Jane Schwartz, Plainfield, N.J.

A Paul Simon, 49, has had two wives and one child. His marriage to Peggy Harper lasted three years (1971-74) and produced a son, Harper, now 18. His second wife, Carrie Fisher, filed for divorce after 11 months. The actress admits she developed drug problems at the time but denies reports that she suffered a miscarriage.

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The Washington Post, 9-13-91

Paramount Pictures announced yesterday that Harrison Ford has been signed to a three-picture deal to portray the Tom Clancy character Jack Gance, beginning with "Patriot Games," which will start filming here in November. Ford replaces Alec Baldwin, who portrayed CIA analyst Gance in the film adaptation of Clancy's "The Hunt for Red October." Baldwin, who in January had signed with producers Mace Neufeld and Robert Rehme to reprise his role in future Clancy projects, bowed out last month after the filming schedule for "Patriot Games" was pushed back. Baldwin said at the time that the filming would conflict with his rehearsal schedule for a February Broadway production of "A Streetcar Named Desire."

Monday, Oct. 21, 1991

By Joyce Jillson

Today's birthday: Actress Carrie Fisher is 35. Mystical experiences for some of you this month. Focus on career development in November; surprises. Forgiveness of others brings reconciliations in December. Be generous, open. In 1992, sharpen skills and expand talents. March shows subtle but new personal and financial trends. Your natural diplomacy works wonders in April. Love affairs have a special poignance in May. Practical gains in June. A special trip in July.



A Spielberg tale: Stars come to rescue of Noyes Library

By PATRICK PEXTON
Journal staff writer

Hollywood stars, including Michael Jackson, Whoopi Goldberg and Harrison Ford, are donating autographed copies of their favorite children's books to help keep open the oldest public library in the area.

The books will be auctioned in June to raise money for the Noyes Children's Library in Kensington, which the county wants to close unless private contributions pay half the \$80,000 annual operating costs of the 99-year-old institution.

Friends of the Noyes Library, working with County Council member Marilyn Praisner, already have received 20 personally signed books from Hollywood actors, directors and writers, including Nancy Reagan biographer Kitty Kelley.

Their secret weapon in extracting these hard-to-get celebrity signatures is Sue Spielberg, a county resident who works at the council as a legislative intern. Not only is Spielberg a mother of children who borrow

from Noyes, she is the sister of Hollywood film director Steven Spielberg.

All it took was a phone call to brother Steve, and the books started coming in the overnight mail. Sue Spielberg said it was re-

markably easy, the celebrities "were taken by the whole idea."

So what did they send?

"Puss in Boots" thrilled Michael Jackson as a child. His autograph in the Charles Perrault tale is extravagant. In 8-inch-high letters scribbled in a cherry-red felt-tip pen.

Whoopi Goldberg sent along "Animals," a lavishly illustrated book of facts about zoo animals.

The favorite of Goldie Hawn, a graduate of Blair High School, is, not surprisingly, "Goldilocks and the Three Bears."

Director Spielberg and writer Kitty Kelley, whose works seem to earn more money than respect, both dispatched copies of the "The Little Engine that Could."

George Lucas, mastermind of the "Star Wars" trilogy, sent an old copy from his personal film research library of "Drums along the Mohawk."

Harrison Ford likes history, donating a copy of "Abe Lincoln Grows Up" by Carl Sandburg. Tom Hanks, who Sue Spielberg said hates giving autographs, signed over "Have Space Suit, Will Travel."

Council aides have been star-struck for the past week as they took calls directly from

the rich and famous or their agents, Spielberg said.

Barbara Kay Smerko, an aide to Praisner, said she nearly dropped the phone when she picked it up last week to hear a voice say "This is Danny Glover in L.A., is Sue there?"

In another incident, a council receptionist buzzed Sue Spielberg to tell her there was a

message that her car was ready at the shop. A puzzled Spielberg, knowing her car was not being repaired, then looked at the message. It said Harrison's Ford had called.

Sue Spielberg, who has met many of the stars, prefers her private country life to the Hollywood spotlight. She asked that her married name not be disclosed. "Don't send me screenplays," she pleaded.

The Noyes Library, founded in 1892 by former Washington Star editor Crosby Noyes, is one of two public libraries County Executive

Neal Potter wants to close to help meet next year a \$185 million projected revenue shortfall. The other is the Four Corners Library in Silver Spring.

Residents of Kensington have rallied behind their institution, organizing protests and the June auction.

Friends of the Noyes Library will be auctioning a variety of other services such as weekends at the beach, mountains and gourmet meals.

The auction will take place Tuesday, June 18, 7 p.m. at Strathmore Hall in Rockville. Admission will be \$25.

KYLE DENNY

STEVE DENNY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
STAR WARS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
COLLECTORS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

695 Sycamore Dr.
Independence, Ky. 41051

Ph. (606) 356-1196

BY JOHN H. RICHARDSON

INSIDE THE BUSINESS OF HOLLYWOOD: MOGULS, MOVIES, AND MONEY

----- FORD FRENZY -----

WITHOUT STOPPING TO say hello, Joel Silver picked up the phone on August 16 and started talking. "So you found something already." There was a pause, and then Silver continued. "This is Joel," he said. "We're talking country to country—I'm in South Carolina looking out over my water moccasins."

On the other end of the line: Harrison Ford, listening to Silver from his Wyoming ranch. But at that particular moment, the two men were very much in Hollywood. Three days earlier, Ford's manager had alerted Silver that Ford had dropped out of Paramount's *Night Ride Down*. He wanted to do an action film immediately, and suddenly he was free. He'd previously expressed an interest in a Silver script called *Hickok and Cody*—so by lunchtime on August 13, Silver had gone into overdrive

trying to get the project rolling at Warner Bros.

But Silver wasn't alone; Paramount's new creative team surely didn't like the idea of an action-minded Ford getting away from them. And they had another pressing problem on their hands. Negotiations with Alec Baldwin to make *Patriot Games*, the first of three planned sequels to *The Hunt for Red October*, had dragged on for nearly a year.

Paramount—whose new chairman, Brandon Tartikoff, was so eager to make *Patriot Games* part of a new "tent pole" series that he'd already upped its budget from

\$28 million to \$35 million—wanted Baldwin to sign a three-picture deal to reprise his role as CIA analyst Jack Ryan, but no sooner had they agreed on a price of \$4 million per film and started the nitty-gritty of contract negotiations than things started getting extremely nitty.

Among Baldwin's demands were a reported \$700,000 in

perks, extra pay for overages, and (ahem) a contractual guarantee barring PREMIERE from the set or even from having any contact with the Paramount publicity department. Then, in mid-August, Paramount decided to move the production's start date—according to Paramount sources, it was two weeks; according to a source close to Baldwin, it was two months—and Baldwin said this would clash with his plans to star as Stanley Kowalski in a Broadway revival of *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Jessica Lange. "He felt he had us over a barrel," says a Paramount source, "and he didn't."

That's because Paramount president David Kirkpatrick apparently decided to solve the studio's two problems in one stroke by giving the *Patriot Games* script

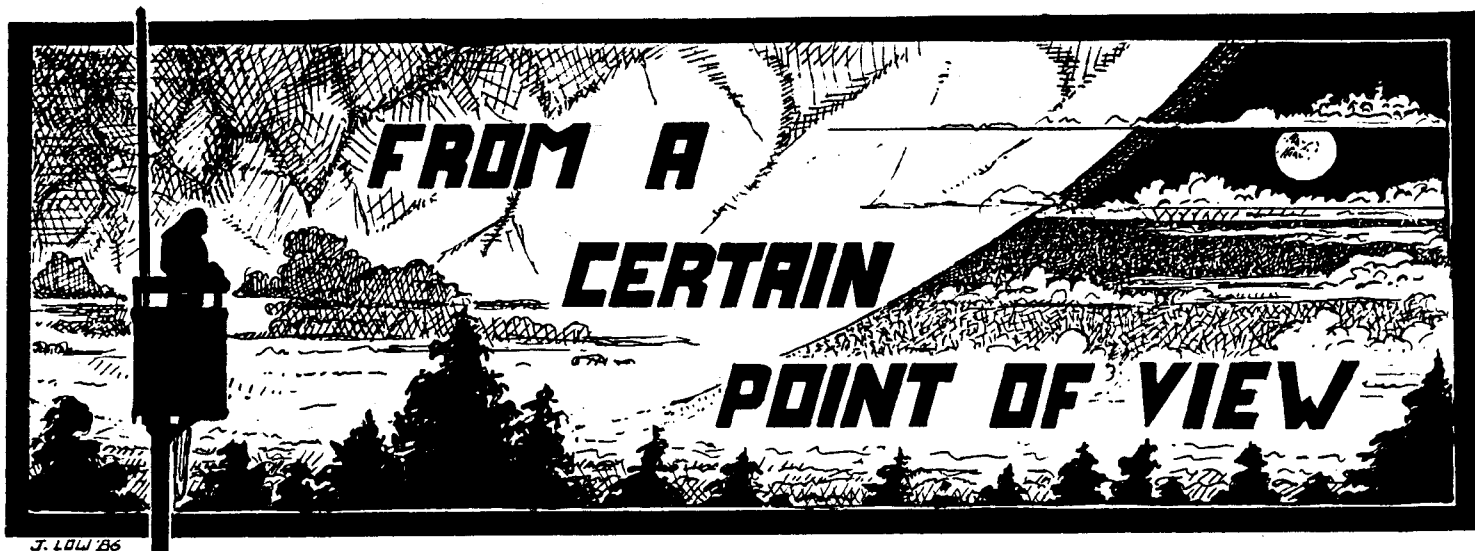
to Ford. The exact date he gave it to him is in dispute; Paramount's official position is that it didn't offer Ford the role until August 23. But Ford seems to have used that August 16 phone call to tell Silver he was leaning toward the Paramount picture (Silver wouldn't say what project Ford was referring to). Ford's manager, Patricia McQueeney, says Kirkpatrick sent her the *Patriot Games* script that morning. "Harrison read it over the weekend, and by the following Monday [the 19th], he had committed," McQueeney says. The studio didn't mention its alleged contacts with Ford when it talked with Baldwin on August 21—five days after Ford's call to Silver. With neither side willing to budge on the start date, Baldwin backed out.

At some point, Baldwin and his lawyer Jake Bloom told Paramount that they would try to get Broadway's Shubert organization to be more flexible on the *Streetcar* start date. Again, the timing is crucial: a source close to Baldwin says Baldwin made the offer *before* August 21; a source at Paramount says the offer came after the 21st, and Paramount responded by finally telling Baldwin it had already offered Ford the role. If Ford agreed to sign for three pictures

(negotiations went on for another week), there was no putting Baldwin back. About two weeks after *Night Ride Down* went down, the *Patriot Games* deal closed, and Paramount leaked the startling news that one of the most talented actors of his generation was being replaced in the role he had created. Less than a month later, Baldwin left the J. Michael Bloom agency for CAA.



PARAMOUNT'S RYAN HOPES.



Kathy Agel
51 West 2nd Street
Bayonne, NJ 07002-2322

Well, If I don't sit my butt down and do this LoC now, it'll never get done. So here I am!

Lots to say, but where to start... "Welcome to Hellcon" was an accurate report on this year's MW*C. I spent a lot of time at my table, and as a result didn't get to see as much of certain people as I'd have liked, but since everyone hits the Dealers' Room at one time or another, I got to see just about everyone I wanted to see. Next year just has to be better—while I wasn't treated badly by the hotel personnel (those I had occasion to deal with were quite friendly), several friends had bad experiences. I did have several photo Xeroxes of Gary Cole stolen from my door... hey, if the perpetrator had asked, I'd have given them to her/him/it!

This LoC was submitted on a 360K disk—I'm doing my bit to help our intrepid Editor to cut back on her work load. I can sympathize with your problems, Cheree—after nine months of excruciating pain, I've finally been diagnosed as having neuritis in my right wrist. It's not carpal tunnel, but it hurts like hell, and the doctor has told me to cut back on my typing. I've been lucky enough to find typists willing to help with the input involved in the zines Criterion Press puts out (more on them later), but the amount of typing my end requires still puts a terrific strain on my wrist. So guys, take it from one who knows, and please send in your LoCs on disk!

I think the editor/artist/author exchange is a great idea—sign me up as an editor looking for warm bodies—er, willing contributors.

Which segues nicely into my next subject. I've been on GENie (the General Electric Network for Information Exchange) for the past few months. Some of us (Mary Jean Holmes, Mary Fall Wardell, Mary Bloemker, Linda Deneroff, to name a few), have been discussing the whys and wherefores of zines. Someone—I don't remember who, but the odds are good that it was one of the many Marys, probably Mary Jean Holmes—asked me why I wasn't doing a SW zine, since that was the fandom that started me writing. I said, "You know...." and ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE was born. It's now open to submissions, with a flexible publishing date, so start sending those stories in! By the way, I finally managed to convince my husband that I needed a laser printer to survive, (I think sticking umpteen-odd zines in his face for two weeks after MW*C, saying "Just look at how nice this looks!" might have had something to do with it) so Criterion Press now has a brandy-new Laser-Jet IIP! Ah, progress (and with the number of zines I do—counting the 1/z, the total is up to nine, although two of those will probably be one-shots, if they get off the ground at all—I need it!)

Sally Syrjala: You're right—it's expensive to do a zine today. I own my own copier, which enables me to keep costs down, and the final price of my zines is still high. Postage alone takes a big chunk. My local copier company gives me a cut-rate on toner, and I buy xerographic paper on sale, but it still adds up. As to the time involved, I squeeze copying

in where I can—before work, on my lunch hours, before and after supper. My copier does 30 ppm, which is pretty fast, but it still takes a while. Collating and binding are two more time-consuming jobs.

Donna Frayser: I agree, well-written original characters can be a wonderful addition to a story, but PLEASE don't refer to them as Mary Sues! A Mary Sue is a poorly-done original character, an exercise in self-indulgence for the author. I received a great deal of positive feedback for my own Cara Solo, and the original characters I've created for my Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea fiction have been even more well-received, but they're not Mary Sues. Why? I've made them real people, with real feelings, real motivations, and real flaws. A Mary Sue has none of these.

Judy Yuenger: Um, are we talkin' about the same Cheree here? Bubbly? Uh-uh. And no, Cheree, you're not bubble-headed, either... And Judy, it was nice to finally meet you, even if I didn't have all that much time to talk. At least anyone looking for me knows where to find me.... Darlin', you have my sympathies on your new project, for all the work you have ahead of you. May the Force be with you on this one, kid! As to the name of the new award, I second Cheree's suggestion--The STAR AWARDS sounds great to me.

Deb Kittle, Matthew Whitney: More Pern fans, huh? Anne's dragons have been a major love of mine for years now, and the fannish Weyrs are a major fannish activity. I edit n/ls for two of them--StarRise (one of the largest, where my character is Weyrwoman 2nd) and NorthWind (one of the smallest, where my character is the new Weyrleader). I enjoyed the graphic novels, but in that format, the bare bones is about all they have room for. #3 is due out shortly. Anne's next book, ALL THE WEYRS OF PERN, will be out in hardback in October or November. Can't wait!

Cathy Churko: I'm a Han-fan, but I never dumped Leia to substitute another female as a love interest for him. I think they belong together, and there are a lot of stories still to be explored regarding their relationship. I never slipped into her character, either. I can't say I haven't been guilty of that in other fandoms, though...

My own characters usually come alive for me, and when they do, they're much easier to write. It's when they don't that I have trouble. Lynn and Kevin Murtagh (from my Voyage fiction series) are incredibly easy to write, and so was Cara Solo. I got to the point that I could put Cara into any situation and I'd know immediately how she'd react. I'm at that point with Lynn and Kevin (who still manage to surprise me at times, however). I liked Cara; I still do. But her story has been told, and I moved on.

Marti Schuller: I'm a fanatic about recycling. Here in Bayonne, we recycle high-quality paper, aluminum cans, steel cans, glass bottles, corrugated cardboard, and newspapers. We have commingled recycling here, but I separate the aluminum cans from the rest and take them to the firehouse--the proceeds go to help children who've been burned in fires.

Jennifer Moore: None of us were experts when we submitted our first stories. Granted, some of us have more native talent than others, but we all had to start someplace. Write a short piece, submit it, and wait for the editor's response. We're not picky, we're not snobby--and most of us love to encourage new writers.

Maggie Nowakowska: LoCs are next to impossible to get these days. My Voyage letterzine has a circulation of 85 (about 20 of them are over in the UK), and I'm lucky to get 20 LoCs for an issue. And those 20 are usually from the same people. LoCs for fiction zines are in even shorter supply--I received five on BELOW THE SURFACE #1, and one on #2. To date, I've received none on #3.

Tim Blaes: Most of the Weyrs send their n/ls to Anne, but she rarely has time to read them. She has her guidelines (no sport dragons; no using her characters in our fiction; no men on goldens or women on bronzes), and couple of Weyrs that violated her tenets were closed down because of that (and those Weyrs that allowed silver dragons were told to get rid of them--except for Ista 9). But she's pretty easy to get along with, and supportive, to boot.



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August 13, 1991

Just received my first copy of SE and am enjoying it immensely! If the enthusiasm I found inside is any indication, I'd say that fears of SW fandom's demise are over exaggerated! It's great to read so many spirited opinions, both pro and con, and I've even got a few of my own!

MWC 11: I know the hotel had its share of problems (to put it mildly), but this was my first year at MediaWest and I had the time of my life! It was great meeting so many people whose writing and art I'd already come to admire through the pages of various zines (especially FLIP OF A COIN--you hear me, Barbara, Wanda, Cypher, Rebecca). I felt like I'd stepped back in time to the '20's and was sitting in on the Algonquin Round Table or Harpo Marx's Thanatopsis Inside Straight and Literary Club. For those unfamiliar with that elite club, it was a non-stop party of famous (and infamous) wits, artists, writers and talents. Conversations were outrageous, funny, unlikely, and a great deal of fun. That sums up MediaWest for me, too. I have only one complaint! I was "kicked out" of the SW party (I didn't realize payment was required in advance). I don't mean to sound sour (honest!), but the request to leave was abrupt and impolite. Being a newcomer to MediaWest and a relatively new SW fan, I admit to being a bit hurt and very disappointed. To add insult to injury, the person in charge asked if I was a mundane! Now, that's getting low! I'm really not trying to use SE as a forum for complaint, however, it might be a good idea in the future to handle such situations with a bit more decorum. Incidents like this could very well prompt a new fan to leave the fandom. But, as for me, exactly how does one go about paying for the party next year?! Incidentally, anyone who complained about the heat and humidity in Lansing obviously never spent a summer in Washington, D.C.! I thought the weather was kinda balmy. Really! ((Ed: The "party" Nora refers to was the SW cantina held on Sunday night of

the con. I have discovered that this cantina was set up by the Forces of the Empire group and was for the sole use of the blaster battle participants. A cover charge was required for entry and everyone was required to be in costume and/or SW persona. I have written to Pat Grunenwald and suggested that they post a sign next year explaining the requirements and thereby reducing the chance for hard feelings on both sides.))

Heir to the Empire: If MWC 11 was labelled the con from hell, this must be the novel from hell. I have so many complaints about the book that I hardly know where to begin. Perhaps the best place is Han and Leia's relationship (except there isn't one). So, Leia's pregnant with twins. Is Han the father? As indifferent as he is towards Leia in this book, it's hard to imagine them getting close enough to produce offspring. Example: "I love you, Han," Leia says. "Me, too," Han replies. Wow, heart-stopper. If this is a play on the "I know" line, it falls flat. A fan pointed out that this novel takes place five years into Han and Leia's marriage, so naturally things aren't going to be glowing with the light of new love. Why not? Luke's relationship with Leia in HEIR is very loving. Another thing that bothers me is Leia's overactivity and Han's willingness to let her become involved in dangerous situations even though she's only three months into her pregnancy (a dangerous period, as any woman will tell you). Han's comment to Luke, "She can't have her big brother around to protect her all the time," also rang false. Is this the Han who risked being captured by Imperials to rescue Leia from Hoth station? Or the Han who instinctively threw a hand out toward her when they were captured on Endor by stormtroopers? Something's certainly happened in five years to change Han's personality! Luke fares no better in the novel. Someone at MediaWest commented that he comes off in the book as the perfect dweeb. Five years after the rebel victory, he has done nothing to advance the Jedi Order, Leia hasn't been trained in the ways of the Force...what has he been doing? Another quibble--the scene where he breaks out of his cell by dismantling his prosthetic hand seems unlikely. While escaping from Jabba's sail barge, Luke receives a blaster "wound" in

the hand and reacts with pain. How likely is it that he's going to blithely dismantle the hand himself and suffer nothing more severe than a slight tingle in the fingertips? Please. I found a problem on nearly every page, but I'll stop here or I'll ramble on for pages. Let me just add that, like Cheree, I felt that the characters and the feel of SW have been better represented in some of the better fan fiction. Timothy Zahn might have benefited by deigning to pick up TREMOR IN THE FORCE, FLIP OF A COIN or WOOKIEE COMMODE to get in touch with what the fans have been doing with the characters the last 13 years. As far as I'm concerned, this was a "let's make a fast buck by capitalizing on a sure fire formula" book, and I was very disappointed.

Luke Skywalker Turns 40 — and still somehow manages to look 16. I'm beginning to think he really is from another planet!

Regarding Henry: Definitely not as bad as the critics say, but probably not as good as fans hoped for. Still, Harrison was splendid and the character is wonderful and ripe for fan fiction! There's a lot a good fan writer could do with this endearing, sweet character—I'm looking forward to reading what they come up with!

Donna Frayser: Personally (as a relative newcomer to SW fandom), I'm impatient when fan writers add new characters to their stories (Ellen Randolph and Cypher are two writers who pulled it off and kept my whole-hearted attention, but for me, that's rare). I disagree that it's all been written—there are many, many possibilities yet to be explored in the lives of our favorite rebels. Mary Jean Holmes has tackled a few wonderful variations on the norm and proved that it can be done. We don't have to give in to Mary Sue yet!

Maggie Nowakowska: I've published four zines (with a fifth in the works). LoCs have always been so rare I've felt like framing the few I've received. It's unfair for readers to assume that zine editors are putting their publications out without needing feedback. Unlike the pro publishers, we don't make a profit on these things and it takes a lot of sweat and pain (and cash) to produce them. I don't think an LoC's too much to ask. If there's a decline in SW zines, folks, look to this as a possible

reason. I've almost quit publishing several times for lack of response.

Matthew Whitney: Loved the photo of you with David Prowse!

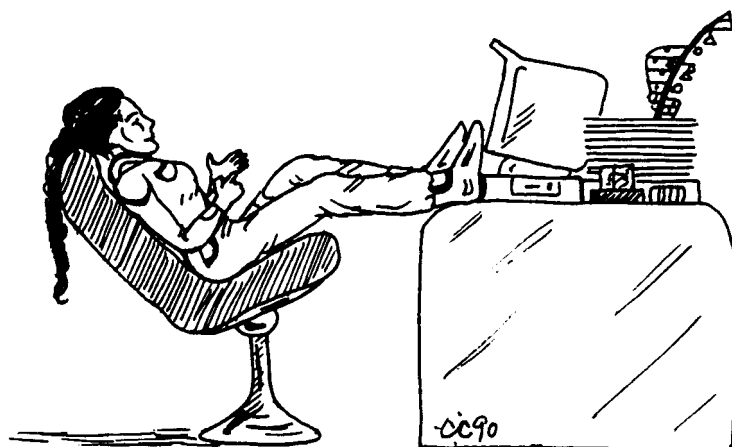
Judith Yuenger: I love the name Star Wars Fandom File, but being partial to the Corellian, I like "The Corellian Merits of Achievement Awards" even better!

Z. P. Florian: Jabba was probably just perverse enough to lust after anything female, but perhaps he showed special interest in Leia just because he knew how it would affect Han. Also, regarding Ben's "whopper" regarding the death of Anakin—my opinion of Obi-Wan deteriorates with every viewing of ANH! With friends like these, who needs enemies?

Sally Syrjala: ROTJ was also my least favorite film, but Harrison's performance (especially while coming out of carbon freeze) makes up for a multitude of sins for me. I could really believe he was blind. Great acting job. Too bad he got so little opportunity to act in this one!

A thought: Has it occurred to anyone that Lando was probably trying to warn Han away from Bespin with his show of arrogance on the landing ramp, but lost his nerve and reverted back to his con man's ways by hugging Han? Also, doesn't it seem a bit callous of Lando to casually comment that "I've just made a deal that will keep the Empire out of here forever" before pushing Han, Leia and Chewie into Vader's trap? Just a thought.

Well, this letter could go on for another six pages, but I'll try to save you the agony and stop here. May your x-wing always fly!



Jennifer Moore
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August 16, 1991

What a night! I'm watching the Redskins and writing to SW fans. So, if my letter sounds a little disjointed, it's because I'm writing sentences between plays.

SE is definitely worth the wait! "From a Certain Point of View" is becoming my favorite section of the newsletter. I really like how everyone interprets the trilogy so differently!

Now to get down to business. Speaking of the state of SW fandom, I heard a rumor brewing. Not to start a letter war or a mud-slinging campaign, I just want to check and see if anyone has heard something similar. Shore Leave, the con in Towson, MD, had a panel entitled "Is This the Last Shore Leave?" What it was about is the latest doings of Creation Conventions. It seems that Creation bought the licensing rights to STAR TREK from Paramount Pictures. After doing so, they proceeded to send a "cease and desist" order to some dealers --in hopes of curbing the sales of "bootleg" merchandise. The panelists and others in the room went on to say that Creation has also tried to enforce this "licensing" rule by forcing fan-run cons out of business. Everyone there cited incidents that seem to support this claim. To make a long story short, people seem to believe that Creation wants to monopolize the convention and fandom scene; and no "small fry" will be allowed to break in. A lively panel it was! But, unfortunately, questions such as "How will this affect fandoms besides TREK? What is the future of cons such as Shore Leave, MediaWest, and other fan-run cons? Will fanzines be limited or even allowed?" -- were never resolved. I could go on further, but my letter would rival WAR AND PEACE. Has anyone heard anything more about this? This inquiring mind wants to know!

Thank you for allowing me to speak up. I just thought I'd pass it on about Creation Cons since it sounded so bizarre.

On a more positive note, I have to say I love those "what if" questions! I'm going to sit down and think of a couple. Maggie Nowa-

kowska's letter on "nostalgia" was thought-provoking. After some thought, I realized 1983 was a great year. ROTJ came out and the Redskins reigned supreme over the NFL. Now, in 1991, SW is becoming active again with HEIR TO THE EMPIRE and the Redskins have a legitimate shot at the Super Bowl. So I say, "Let's get this show on the road and get involved!" Like Maggie says, let's see what's out there now.

I've rambled on enough so I'll sign off. Last, but definitely not least, is Cheree--I hope your parents are doing better and I wish you and them the very best. ((Ed: Thanks for the good wishes. My mom's leg is healed now, although she's still sporting a very large red scar that we're keeping an eye on. And Daddy is feeling fine, though the doctors are keeping a close eye on him as well.))

Theories

Marti Schuller
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August 22, 1991

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. Congratulations, Cheree, on winning another well-deserved Fan Q for SE. I'd argue with you, however, that all the credit belongs to those who contribute. You do such an admirable job, with too little expressed appreciation, so take your bow when you're recognized!

I thoroughly enjoyed reading everyone's reviews on HEIR TO THE EMPIRE. Of all the opinions given, I found myself most in agreement with you, Cheree. Like Z. P., I'm thankful for the new boost the book has brought to SW fans, known and unknown. Like Cheree, I've certainly read more entertaining, well-written ideas in fanzines. (I also agree, Cheree, that no one who has not experienced pregnancy first-hand can depict it accurately.) To Chris Graham,

I'll say I, too, had some questions re Chewie's family and Luke's prior activities, but I do have a theory on the ysalamiri. Suppose that their Force presence was once the strongest on the planet and that, somehow, this made them easier prey. Over generations, couldn't they develop a way to repel not only their own Force emanations, but all Force auras? As a means of survival? I realize this is a shaky argument at best, but it's the only one I could conceive that would allow me to enjoy the story. Anyone else have a better idea? Ming, I'm sorry you so obviously disliked the book but it certainly proves, once again, the differences that exist within fandom when some of us liked the novel, some of us took it as pleasant fluff and some hated it. It will be interesting to see if opinions alter over the next two volumes. My biggest gripe--the girl. If she is, as I suspect, the potential love interest for Luke, I may openly rebel myself.

How wonderful it was to see the bios on Debbie Kittle and Matthew Whitney. I love the caption "Crew Roster." I look forward to future bios so I'll finally have faces for all your familiar names.

Maggie, your account of your visit to the Italian Alliancecon was very interesting and enlightening. I particularly appreciated the differences you encountered. It seems you had a marvelous time and represented American fandom in fabulous fashion. I don't know who was the more fortunate, you or those you met. By the way, do we address you now as Madame Ambassador?

Thanks, Cheree, for your edifying glance at MWC '91. I'm almost glad I missed it, but not really. Any chance for photos from Hellcon? (*(Ed: Unfortunately, the Official Con Gremlin spent a good bit of time in my camera. I only managed a very few photos and none of them are good enough or interesting enough to print. Anyone out there care to share their photos?)*) I hope by now your mother is improving steadily, if not fully healed. We had a scare earlier this summer with my 18-year-old nephew. He stepped on a nail while cleaning the chicken coop on my sister's farm and developed cellulitis. He ended up in surgery, but it was still touch-and-go for over five weeks as to whether he'd need his foot amputated. Luckily, he's

fine now, but I do sympathize with what you felt for your mother. By the way, I've had carpal tunnel syndrome in both hands for several years now, so I can sympathize with you there, too.

Well, I want to try to keep this at the new three page request limit so...

Z. P. Florian: I'm sorry if I misunderstood your reaction to the torture in "Missing". I happen to know that Treena [Catriona Campbell] spent long, grueling weeks researching actual torture accounts in order to be faithful in her presentation of the horrors. I'll pass on your praise to her. I know she'll appreciate it.

Sally Syrjala: Hurray for another voice that recognizes the worth of stories on familiar themes. Good writing can make any plot seem new and fresh, IMO.

Debbie Kittle: I also saw Mark on the two FLASH episodes. While he definitely wasn't playing Luke, Mark did an excellent job, don't you think? He seemed to be in his element. Did anyone else see shades of Frank Gorshin's "Riddler" in Mark's performance, though?

I still haven't found "Jedi Honor", but I haven't had time to look much, either. Too many other demands for my attention these days.

Have fun at MWC '92. Hopefully, it'll be better than this year's apparently was. Tell you what--you hijack that plane and I'll rob the bank and see you there. Deal?

Judith Yuenger: It sounds like, in spite of all the problems, you had a blast at MWC. I am also a smoker, though, and I must admit that the year I attended, I found far less acceptance than you did. In fact, some fans were borderline rude, even though I smoked only outside the hotel or where ashtrays had been placed in the halls.

You really have lists for all SW fan writers?! Now I know you're the one to tackle the awards. Speaking of which, I like Cheree's suggestion for the name. Previously, I'd liked the "Obi", but it does exclude the Darksiders, I suppose. Another thought, how about just the "Force Awards"? Whatever name, best of luck.

Matthew Whitney: I like your four stages of the Force, but I'd add a little. PASSIVE: aware and feeding the Force, but unable to use it. LIGHT: used for constructive and selfless

interests, except in the matter of personal survival. DARK: used for destructive and self-serving purposes.

I've always felt that Dagobah was, somehow, shielded, but not by Yoda. More of a special quality of the planet itself. I do agree though that Ben used his Force powers rarely while on Tatooine to avoid undue attention.

Add me to the list of those who appreciate DRAGONSLAYER! That's the best dragon ever created, bar none!

Catherine Churko: Re your question about drawing Luke in "regular" or more casual clothes. I, for one, say DO IT. So long as he doesn't end up in a galactic leisure suit, I think fans will accept anything.

You asked about characters and how writers can become bored with "old friends". I can only speak for myself, of course, but I find that I sometimes need a break from characters in order to keep them fresh. I never forget them, but new ones pop up that demand attention, too. I'd hate to ever feel limited to just those I knew well. Imagine that you love drawing flowers and can draw a handful extremely well. Does that mean you never want to draw trees?

Jennifer Moore: Hail and well met! If encouragement is what you need to get more involved in fandom, I think you'll find SE a great source. As for not writing fanfic because some you've read are superior to your view of your own work, I doubt there's an author alive—in fandom or pro—who can't name writers they feel are better than they are. Derogatory LoCs can hurt, but I've seldom seen any that weren't meant well or that couldn't enlighten the author, once you get past the sting, of course. By all means—WRITE! I'm also a staunch believer that the more you write, the better you get. I hope to see your stories soon.

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: I'm continuously amazed at how well-read and well-educated SW fans are. I've never read Plato's vision of the human spirit, but I really like your application of it to SW. I had noticed that each of the main characters does come up against what they'd seemingly desired only to find it lacking. I've always felt it was Lucas' way of demonstrating that wise old adage "be care-

ful what you wish for because you just may get it."

I agree 100% with your analysis of Palpatine as purely evil. Not everyone turns to the Dark as a result of external influences, even in real life, and I firmly believe there are those who shun "good" of their own free will, even in face of utter defeat.

Maggie Nowakowska: I missed the 60 MINUTES segment on Nazi children, but I like the idea of drawing on it to portray Luke and Leia's attitudes over their parentage. I will say I found it profoundly sad that those Nazi children were so obsessed and haunted by their parents' activities. I, for one, have never accepted that the sins of the father are visited on the child, except by the narrow-mindedness of bigoted fools.

I love your perception of Anakin/Vader and share your ideas whole-heartedly.

Re LoCs -- AMEN!

Leanne Wingo: Welcome to SE! I have to agree with Cheree that Mos Eisley is probably a lot more visibly wild after nightfall, but also, Ben probably "senses" underlying currents of villainy that may not be overtly noticeable to someone not Force-aware.

Auriette Hahn: Hi! I love your first name! I haven't heard any more on the comic "Dark Empire" either, but I'm glad you brought it up. I was beginning to think I'd imagined hearing of it, at all.

Tim Blaes: Good luck with your cross universe zine! It sounds potentially, delightfully weird fun. Be sure to let us know when it's available for sale. As for SW being hard to cross, I've certainly read enough stories on this theme to find that hard to believe. (SW & Shakespeare, Ghostbusters, Dr. Who, to name only a few.) I know I've crossed SW with Christmas and DRAGONLANCE myself, so if I can do it, anyone can.

Oops, over my three page limit by half a page. Sorry, Cheree. I'll try to do better next time. For now, have a great holiday season everyone. (Am I early or late?) And keep those pencils, pens, fingers working to keep SW fandom moving. Peace to all!

Debbie Kittle
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September 10, 1991

Happy Autumn (soon to be Winter) to All! Congrats on the Fan Q for SE. That's really great. It sounds like MWC was very...interesting to say the least. It will probably be very boring when I go next year.

At the end of August I got to see Jonathan Frakes (Riker from STING) and a week later I got to see Bill Shatner. Both put on nice shows and I enjoyed them both. It looks like STING's 5th season is going to be good especially with Spock making an appearance in November, then ST 6 coming out one month later. That movie looks to be very promising.

Could it be that George is finally going to give us what we've hoped for? I know there have been rumors and such but this much stuff in printed form seems a little promising. I'll be keeping my fingers crossed as well as some Forceful wishing.

Z.P.: What would constitute a Huttese beauty? Was Jabba handsome by Huttese standards? Who's to say what turns on an alien life-form? Even us humans have some weird tastes from time to time, though what is considered weird for one doesn't necessarily mean weird to the next person.

Sally: I agree with everything you stated. I'm not looking for anything fancy. Sure it's nice, but I'm happy just with a nice looking zine with no frills, bells or whistles. I love to read a story even if it's been done a hundred times. I know that no two people would have the same exact story.

Matthew: 3PO definitely knew she was on board because he tells R2 that "there'll be no escape for the Princess this time." It also indicates that they've been through this before. I could accept the programmed security block with other droids but 3PO strikes me as someone who would have a hard time going along with it. Why didn't they use that on him in ROTJ? Quicker not to tell him than insert the new programming?

The whole scene struck me as odd just like Ben's little eye problem in ANH.

I agree with your theory about why Ben and Yoda were never sniffed out but if Dagobah was shielded, Luke seemed to have a pretty easy time finding it. He told R2 that they were going to the Dagobah system so there must have been more than one planet. It's possible that Yoda lowered his shield so Luke could find it relatively easy. I still think that Darth knew nothing of Yoda as only Masters know about The Master.

Catherine: Would love to see Luke in different/alterd Jedi clothes. It's great to see other people's imagination.

Only R2 is aware of Kenobi's existence. 3PO carried on too much to feign ignorance. It was just strange sounding to me. He knew that she was on the ship and they had had at least one if not more adventures together. I would've thought if he were trying to protect the Princess, he would have come up with an excuse of his own to explain the holo, not let R2 do it. He does tend to think he is better than R2.

I have GUARDIAN 6 on my waiting list from the Lending Library. So I'll look forward to reading that story. Thanks.

I got two of the three 3-D SW comics. The third one was sold out and I've been unable to locate a copy myself.

I tried to see the partial eclipse we had over the East Coast. Yes, I put on my sunglasses and was able for a few seconds see the moon over the sun, only about 7%. Call me crazy and foolish but I had to.

Chris: See my response to Catherine above about 3PO.

Marti: About the Hutts, just because Jabba is like he is in ROTJ, there is always the possibility that he went through a metamorphosis (like caterpillar/butterfly) and he was able to move on legs or appendages early in his life. He might have been immune to those mind tricks but Leia's boosted strength and his "new" overlarge body hindered any hope of continuing his life.

Those temps for Anchorage were hot and record breaking for them at that time (just my luck). To me, 70-75 is warm. I was going out in Glacier Bay, which had air temps of the 30's, in a short-sleeve regular thickness shirt and was in my element. I also went up to

Thompson's Pass to see Worthington Glacier and got my picture taken in a snow bank with same type of shirt above, air temp probably in the 40's. Everyone else is bundled up and I'm working up a sweat just standing there. I know some of that was from an adrenalin rush because I was so excited but in the winter here (when it decides it will be a winter) I go around in T-shirts and a jean jacket for the most part.

That's why I hate summers here. It is so hot and humid, it's disgusting and I'm miserable. I've been told by some friends go to the southwest. It's hot but not humid. I keep telling them I don't want to live anywhere where it is more than 70 degrees for more than a week at a time. I want to live in Alaska, but I just have to win that state lottery first (yes, I tried for the \$21 million a few weeks ago and lost.) I want a state that has a winter season that is a true Winter with an occasional blizzard just for good measure.

I've discovered that lately the new people that we've hired at work are fans of the Trilogy. It's been nice to discuss points of view with them but they don't wish to become involved in fandom. It's just nice to talk to someone about it. The Library keeps me involved in SW, there are so many zines to read, and thanks to Z.P. and Cheryl Pryor I now am working on my own clothes for my newly acquired SW dolls. I am having loads of fun.

Thanks for your good wishes for my grandmother. She's doing well and just turned 88 in July. I'm glad things are going well for you.

Jennifer: Here's a large dose of nerve, courage and motivation for you to sit down and write something, anything. I loved to write in school, especially those research papers but the professors in college, especially one in particular who I hated, usually cut my work down. That one teacher though really did a thorough job of hating everything I put to paper. He tried to tell me that my sentence structures were too simple or vice versa. It was in technical writing and that was the only English course ever that I got a 'C' in, the rest were 'B's or 'A's. The guy was a jerk and he even stated in the beginning of class that he wasn't really supposed to teach this class but they were short a teacher.

I didn't let it discourage me, though. With the help of a friend, we sat down, wrote a story, submitted it to WC and it got accepted. Let me say that it is a big thrill to get that acceptance letter, sort of like getting into college. I'm certainly not prolific like Carolyn Gollledge and some others but I do what I can. My work would never come up to snuff in comparison with their talent but I accept it and write what I feel is my best. I just got my fourth story accepted for WC 8.

I also don't mind the LoC's. They give good criticism, especially if you're a first timer. I also take into account that you can't please everyone. Someone is going to dislike the story, just don't let it get you down. I don't. I hope you'll give it a try one day.

Fiorenzo: Interesting explanation re: 3PO and the radio shows. He could've been angry with R2 which was typical of him but it still rubs me the wrong way.

Maggie: Perhaps only certain carbon chains (C-C-C-...) were melted thus insuring that the victim would remain unharmed yet there seems to be some discrepancy. It appears that others have been put in hibernation before as it doesn't appear to be anything new to them but on the other hand, carbon freezing doesn't seem to have been used on a person. Perhaps only in experimentation. I wonder how many forms of hibernation there are?

Auriette: Welcome to SE. I think it would take more than 40 years to reconstruct the galaxy though by that time, the major framework, diplomatic stuff would have been laid.

I hope you'll tell us what Timothy Zahn said at the Con as I'm anxious to hear what he has to say.

Tim: I like your what if about Leia trying to find Ben. I've thought of that myself at one point. Maybe she had a rough idea (from Bail) and was going to ask around. It seemed old Ben the Hermit was at least known.

If Luke had made it home ahead of the troopers, I don't think he could have said anything to them that they'd believe to make them leave. Maybe Beru would've, but I think Owen was stubborn enough to stay put and fight them off, if they'd have shown up.

Good luck on that C/U SW zine. How about "A-Cross The Force" as a title?

Now for some tidbits: Looks like Harrison's next movie is set in the 1930's and is by Harold Becker entitled NIGHT RIDE DOWN. Certainly sounds different than what he's done.

Looks like Harrison may be coming to Washington in a few months to start filming PATRIOT GAMES, a novel by Tom Clancy. I might brave DC to try and get a look at him.

Some recommendations for stories to read in your local fanzine: "The Wizard of F. Oz" in the NERFHERDER'S COMPANION #2. The characters were replaced with SW and it was really funny when they put in the George Lucas add-ins.

In SKYWALKER #4, a story by Jackie Paciello entitled "Kessel Run" gives a great definition of that 12 parsecs problem Han mentioned in ANH.

Well, I'll close now and hope by our next get together we'll hear if our wishes/dreams come true concerning Chapter 1 and I hope everyone has a delightfully COLD winter. Fly Casual!

On the Mark

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2 to 3 pages, eh? Okay, I'll give it a try. (Do I hear cheering?) By the by, loved the DESERT SUN interview with Ford--best one I've seen yet.

Here's a chorus I thought worked well with the philosophy of SW:

*You've got to sing, like you don't need
the money;
Love, like you'll never get hurt.
You've got to dance, like there's nobody
watching;
Live with your heart, if you want
it to work.*

Sally Syrjala: I think you're right on the

mark with the idea that Han and Leia are reflections of each other psychologically and that one thing that binds them is their ability to see behind each other's mask.

As for Leia's reactions to everything that has happened to her, while I agree that folks on the political levels that Leia Organa inhabits can get tired like any other human, it seems to me that one of the particular traits of political animals is that they thrive on what would exhaust, or drive crazy, the rest of us. Leia could be tired and soul-weary with all the set-backs and tragedies she has endured, but there's plenty of precedent to assume that she would keep politicking with her last breath. A person usually doesn't stop mothering just because she's tired and heart-sick; a mother is what she is and she keeps on with it, whatever the circumstances. If Leia is truly a deep-in-the-politics animal, a mover/shaker is what she will remain, and she will keep on with it whatever happens--death, destruction, or lovers by the name of Han Solo. Now, I have no trouble with someone writing a story that takes as its premise the idea that politicking was forced upon Leia and that she would be happy to give it up, no matter how good she is at it--I was good at science and I spent the remainder of my mother's lifetime unsuccessfully convincing her that I didn't want to be a nuclear physicist--but the author is going to have to write it pretty convincingly after all the on-screen behavior support we've seen for the idea that politicking is Leia's choice of vocation.

As for accepting an encompassing description of fanlit as similar to romance lit in structure, I'm a little hesitant. Certainly that's one style available in fanlit, but others exist. Mark me down as one fanlit reader who craves the surprise of simulated real life and therefor dislikes formula intensely, no matter how interesting the characterization. Maybe I'm just one of the restless breed of human, but I find no reassurance in unchangeability; and the older I get, with ever more limitations on my choices in life, the more I want my fantasy life to offer me unexpected adventure and development.

Z. P. Florian: I've always thought Jabba's interest in skimpy outfits for humans was part

and parcel of his interest in maintaining control over this people. He's probably acutely aware of whatever works re: subjugation for each type of operative. It really isn't very difficult to learn that sexual humiliation works very well indeed with humans. (Just as droids fear not being able to fulfill their function and so are threatened with being slowly short-circuited.) Redefining a brave, bad-ass undercover agent as no more than a body for a g-string and brass bra effectively neutralizes that agent's ability to threaten anyone. It would be no different if it were Han decked out in nothing but nipple rings and a sequined jockstrap with bells. If the capture of Leia and Han were presented realistically, Leia probably would be raped immediately by those humans Jabba wished to favor. Probably Han as well, from what I've read of how gangs often avenge themselves on each other. Let's not forget the psychological pleasure some sentient folk take in another's humiliation, a pleasure that is not dependent upon the ability of the antagonist to perform sexually. I have no trouble at all imagining Jabba enjoying Leia's exhibition both on a control and a perverse psychological level. I know of one couple that got the message behind Lucas' images immediately and forbade their 4-year-old daughter from seeing JEDI because of those early scenes.

Matthew Whitney and Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: I'd use the yin-yang symbol to answer Matthew's questions about the purity of either side of the Force, but Lucas included enough symbols of the same in the movies. Look at the stormtroopers, white with black; or at Han, black with white; or at Luke, who goes from all white in ANH to mufti in TESB to black in ROTJ until he finally turns away from Dark temptation and white flaps back once again to show his returning balance.

There's light in the dark and dark in the light, and while I think all cultures know this, it seems that the Eastern philosophies accept it as natural more readily than do the Western ones. From the Greeks, as well as from Zoroaster and the Levant, we've inherited an emphasis on purity as a desirable and possible goal. IMO, that sets us up for failure because of the irony Fiorenzo pointed out: that it is

in the extremes/purity of our desires that we walk hand-in-hand with the Dark Side. Too much light can blind (darken) the eyes, and too much dark leaves the eyes useless, both undesirable situations. Since I feel the Easterners have a better handle on reality, I can't see Palpatine as all Dark, philosophically; even he could change...but I sure wouldn't want his karma!

Catherine asks why authors can't write about favorite characters forever. Speaking for myself, I stop writing when the character's life--how s/he was born, grown, educated, bedded, experienced and completed--has been fleshed out completely; when I know everything I need to know about why the character is who s/he/it is. Sure, I could repeat storylines, but that is boring. And putting a character through hoops just because I want to read about her/him/it--well, for me, that's emotional masturbation. And cruel to a character I like. I mean, I think of these folks as real people, and real people--even those who are hyperactive--can only take so much. For me, Han can get his lights punched out only so many times, just like real people; and Luke can indulge in only so much depression; and Leia can only bluster so much. Eventually, the characters grow up and out of the stories. At some point in my imaginings, during which I outline my tales, a character will leave the story, look at me and say, "Enough already." For those familiar with my THOUSAND WORLDS series, I'll use JetRever as an example. I really like this guy; he's a father/lover image for me, the classic archetype, and in my own fantasies, I've worked the character as much as any I've had. But about a year ago, he let me know that any more usage would be abuse and he wouldn't cooperate. And that's that, as far as I'm concerned.

Auriette Hahn: When Vader cracks wise on Leia's ship, I always thought he was being drippingly sarcastic about the rebels' cover. He and they knew darn well it wasn't an ambassador's ship and the Dark Lord was merely rubbing it in. As for Palpatine not sensing Leia whilst in the Senate, it would fit in with the deep cover suggested for her by Kenobi's statements on Dagobah. Also, the ploy about the most obvious enemy being the one last

noticed could work here. A sudden thought: although many fan writers use the Luke as Forceful/Leia as Force-blind plot development, that contradicts Luke's own belief (stated on Endor in ROTJ in a very factual way, as if he has already sensed her unrealized abilities), and Vader's assumption that his other child would be workable material.

Tim Blaes: Oh, yeah, some great alternates could be written about what happens when Leia is intercepted with the tapes. We've had one running where Luke finally gets into space when shanghaied by Han who needs a body fast and takes the easiest-looking one in Mos Eisley; where Leia is kept by Vader as a trophy after Alderaan blows up; where Luke gets conscripted by the Imps onto Vader's ship, takes up with Leia to whom he is drawn through the Force, and subsequently learns about the Force from Vader's Darkside POV; where Kenobi sets out after Luke a year later, runs into Han and Chewie who are pissed about losing their by-then partner to the Imps (H&C) and Kenobi pissed about losing Luke to the Dark. The story line packs incest, Darkside, revenge, et al, into one screaming package. Gad, I'm glad I don't have time to write it down...

Moronic Hotel Management

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September 12, 1991

Greetings! Here I am back again. I just loved reading through SE#29, as well as all the back issues I ordered. The hard work you do to put it all together is amazing. You do it so well, too. Give yourself a big pat on the back!

I honestly didn't think I'd be able to re-

spond so soon (if at all) this time as my college schedule has been rather hectic this semester. Not to mention the fact my part time job is slowly turning into a full time job. I've forgotten exactly what sleep is, but it often sounds appealing! I managed to luck out today as two of my classes were cancelled, so here I am! Enough babbling; onto the LoC...

To our fearless editor, Cheree: I really got a kick out of your editorial about "Hell-con". C'mon, it really wasn't that bad. I really enjoyed myself despite the problems with the moronic hotel management. It was really wonderful to see so many friendly faces and to meet so many people in fandom. It was something I needed as my father died of cancer shortly before the con, and I was under a great deal of stress. I debated on even going as I didn't want to leave my mom when I felt she needed me. It was she (a woman with little understanding of fandom) who encouraged me to do. I am so glad I went; the con worked wonders for my morale. I want to give extra special thanks to my wonderful roomies at the con --Elke Slowik, Carolyn Gollledge, and especially Janet Madden for making it so much fun for me. The three of you are tops in my book! I really hated to leave and I found myself feeling a sense of "culture shock" when I got home. I kept wondering why I was no longer in a galaxy far far away!

By the way, has anyone heard anything about the lawsuit against the Holiday Inn? Somebody told me Lori and Gordon were trying to contact the wedding party people to go in and sue them together. I sure hope the hotel realizes what a big mistake they committed at MWC-11.

Maggie: I have to tell you I really agree with the idea you play Mon Mothma in the first trilogy. You really write wonderful letters. So, tell us what your secret is! I really loved your report on Alliance Con in Italy. Sounds like you had a fabulous time. Quite an adventure at the airport, eh? Thank the Maker you arrived.

It was interesting to read about the translations in Italian. I just love the idea of the Imps speaking more properly than the Rebels. Also, the implications for the Italian words for "master" sound very good. I almost wish it came out that way in English.

Your accounts of the children of Nazis were chilling to say the least. As a matter of fact, the other day a friend and I were discussing that very subject and I read her that portion of your letter. Her reaction was the same as mine when I first read it. Sad. Very sad. In '83, Carrie Fisher told an interviewer (I believe it was in PEOPLE magazine) she was glad that they told her before they shot the scene where Luke tells Leia that Vader is their father. "Otherwise," she said, "it would've been like Mark was saying Eddie Fisher wasn't my father, but Hitler was."

Yes, I believe Anakin/Vader is a reminder of the darkness in all of us. We all have our dark moments, just as we all have choices on which path to take. We can be like Darth and choose to follow the dark path, or we can choose, as Luke did, to follow the path of light. This, I think, was a big factor in the success of the SW movies. The theme is universal and many people could relate to it. You're right; Anakin's return to life is hope to us. It shows that despite our mistakes, we can start anew.

Auriette Hahn: The CHICAGO TRIBUNE said a new SW film could be out as early as next year??? Nahhh, I better not get my hopes up too high, I'm sure it's just a rumor. Wouldn't it be nice, though? Which reminds me...

Hi, Marti! Gee, it seems I've heard your name from a certain Janet Madden for years! I feel as if I know you. A friend of mine said there were a bunch of rumors flying around a con in the Bay Area that RED TAILS is really a SW movie. I believe it's probably only a rumor, though...but it's nice to dream about it, eh? All I know is if I saw a trailer for a new one, I'd probably faint. ((Ed: For the record, RED TAILS is not a code name for the new SW movie. It is a movie done by Lucasfilm about an all-black fighter squadron in WWII.))

Yes, it is in the JEDI novelization that states Ben is Owen's brother. It's the scene where Ben is explaining to Luke about Leia being his sister. It's a bit more detailed than the movie's scene. In this same scene, Ben also tells Luke that when his father left, he did not know his wife was pregnant.

Matthew: Hi, I've also heard your name mentioned a few times. (Rumor has it that you

have quite a collection of movie stills.)

I also got a copy of the audio of HEIR TO THE EMPIRE. It took me forever to find it, too. I work in a fairly large mall and I thought for sure that either Walden's or B. Dalton's would get it in. Both places looked at me like I was crazy when I asked for it. Well, then I went on a short vacation to San Francisco this summer. I thought I'd probably find it there. No such luck. After all this looking at various book stores in the Bay Area, my mom finds it at a book store in La Jolla--practically in my back yard! I've enjoyed what I've heard so far. The one thing that struck me is that Lawson is English. Okay, after a million or so viewings of the Saga, one would think I would have realized that but I never did!

Debbie Kittle: Congrats on your new computer. My grandpa recently got one and I think he's getting tired of my face as I'm always going over to his place to use it!

Guess what? We have Price Clubs here, too, and in the past few times I've been in there, they've had SW playing on the big screen! Is this coincidence or is the organization run by fans? Hmmm, something to ponder...

Well, I guess I'm through ranting and raving. Before I close, what does everyone think of the situation in Russia? Pretty amazing, isn't it? The whole world is changing before our very eyes. Let me close by wishing everyone a joyous holiday season and a very prosperous 1992! See y'all next year! May the Force be with you...always!



Medicine
Man

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She's baaaaaack! I'm sure my absence from the last issue or two of SE went largely unnoticed by fandom in general; probably the only people who missed me were the folks who like to engage in a mutual locking-of-horns...but hey—even an argument is a dialog, right? I'm afraid writing LoCs is just one of many fannish activities to be put on hold this past year. I was extremely lucky to be able to make it to MediaWest*Con this year. I was apparently one of the many fans who had a wonderful time in spite of the hotel problems. (My favorite comment on that: "Nice hotel you've got here ...it would be a shame if something were to happen to it...!") I'm sorry I didn't make the SE gathering. Although its scheduling was probably perfect for most SW fans, I was working the art auction (I know, I know—every year I swear will be my last for working the art auction!). I hope the SE gathering becomes an annual event; who knows—maybe next year I'll hang tough and not work the art auction, so I can attend it.

SE#29 was another nice big fat issue. Cheree, does it seem as amazing to you as it does to me that you've put out that many issues? (Ed: Constantly!) Thanks for your perseverance and all the grunt work you put into this letterzine. I've marked so much stuff, I can't begin to comment on all of it; guess I'll just try to hit the points where my scrawlings in the margins were the most vehement!

Z. P. Florian: Although I've discussed this matter with you in a private letter, I also want to make a comment on your remarks about how hurt you were by what you assumed was a snub from Samia and me and THE WOOKIEE COMMODE. I feel that a public apology is due—even though no slight was intended—simply because you have been traumatized enough by this to write about it in SE! As I explained, I have no control over letters sent to, and not answered by, Samia. My file contains only two letters from you, both regarding doing illustrations for the WC, and replies were sent to both (although I'll admit the replies were

probably vague and unsatisfying—since the future of the zine was in limbo). The only advice I can offer all fan correspondents is never, NEVER assume that no answer = rejection! Only a letter of rejection = rejection! Frankly, we are just not that evasive or polite in rejecting material! No reply to a letter could mean anything from the letter never arrived, the reply never arrived, the question can't be answered yet, or someone is too lazy or disorganized to answer their mail. I hope rather than making you timid or dejected, this experience will teach you to persist when you write editors—until you are sure you have been heard and until you get an answer.

Sally Syrjala: Your comments on the burden of fanzine publishing are pretty much on target. And yes, cost is definitely an intimidating factor. It's certainly one of the reasons why I would not consider trying to continue to publish the COMMODE by myself.

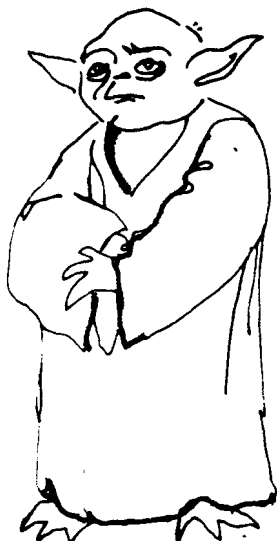
Donna Frayser: I agree with your observation that good created characters are the key to rejuvenating SW fan fiction—and I've said so more than once in these pages. I think the term "Mary Sue" has too much of a negative connotation, though; guess we will have to come up with a new name for them. FCCs? (Fan Created Characters) Or FCNCCs? (Fan Created Non-Canon Characters) Oh, forget it—the term is becoming longer than some of the stories.

Judith Yuenger: Thanks for the work on the SW awards. I do think that you have too many categories, though. Even the ones in the Fan Qs are unwieldy enough! I feel it is redundant to have categories for both authors and stories. This is not like the Academy Awards, where a movie is the work of more than just its stars. A fanfic award for a story is an award for the writer, is it not? Ditto for the art categories. The only place I can see two categories is fanzine and editor; obviously any fanzine is far more than just the work of its editor. Interesting that this idea is taking root now, when SW fanzines and fanfiction are supposedly on the "decline"!

Ming Wathne: Hi! Nice to see you again, both at MediaWest and at WorldCon. Just wanted to let you know that I basically agree with your comments on communication between zine editors, writers, artists, and buyers. (Gad,

what is this?? Am I becoming--agreeable?! ...Naaw!) But—and this is a big but—my own views have undergone a major readjustment in the last year, due to the most relentless teacher there is: personal experience. Yes, at one time I would have agreed with you, and been pretty darned smug and dogmatic about it, too, that there can be no excuse for not responding immediately to SASEs. After all, how much time can it take, right? Right... Heck, I even used to respond immediately to people who didn't know enough, or didn't bother, to send SASEs, even those from foreign countries. Yeah, I was really Miss Holly Jolly Self-Righteous Zine-Ed, all right, sniping at all those lazy, careless, irritating people who couldn't get it all together. Well, now I have a different view. There is a real world and it contains limitless numbers of very genuine reasons why someone might not be able to respond immediately to your SASE—or to anything else, for that matter. I still consider myself a member of the Church of Responsible Fans; but now I just consider myself a member of the Reformed Branch, and I am not only far more willing to cut all those "irresponsible" folks a little slack—I am even willing to cut myself a little slack.

Well, this isn't the end of the hysterical marginal markings I made, by any means; but it seems like a fortuitous place to stop! I realize I am flirting with the dangerous precedent of not royally p.o.'ing (can I say "pissing off" in SE, Cheree?) (*Ed: Yeah, I suppose so, as long as you don't do it on the floor.*) half of SW fandom, but hey—so I'm hav-ing an off-year! Just cut me some slack, will ya?



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September 9, 1991

It was great to see so much about the foreign fandoms! I think SW is stronger, more alive than we dare to believe. I also like the short bios, and thanks for the haunting photo of Hamill. And now to the personal messages!

Sally Syrjala: You say that by publishing, one is putting oneself up to criticism. Hm. I am still dazzled by my own courage to put ANAKIN together and have this secret fear that someone will beat me over the head with a fluorescent cover page... Still, we must try! Publishing is like using the Force, beginners get stung by remotes, but this is how we get ahead!

Judith Yuenger: You are right, communications is the main problem. Going to cons, buying zines is quite expensive nowadays, but there are other possibilities, too. PC billboards, for example. There is a pretty lively SW correspondence on Prodigy. Fax is bound to get even cheaper in the future. And how about zines published entirely on floppy disks?

Matthew Whitney: I think that Force power can be switched off, kept low key, and I agree that range limits depend on talent (did Yoda say he had been watching Luke for a long time?). And yes, DRAGONSLAYER is a great movie.

Catherine Churko: Hey, just try and draw Luke in any kind of clothing you can think of. There must be Alliance-issued pajamas, desert gear, neoprene suits, bathing suits, or native costumes for spy missions, and maybe a towel around his waist after a shower? Drop the towel; doesn't the man have a birthday suit?

About Han's time in carbonite: I think the book said six months, but then maybe not, so please, you out there: who knows for sure how long it was?

Chris Graham: Well, if Vader didn't hire the slugs, someone sure did. Jabba does tell Luke, "I was killing your kind when being a Jedi still meant something." And Kenobi says something like "Vader helped to hunt down the Jedi." So I assumed the two things could have

been connected. Jabba, by the way, is not immobile. We just don't see him slithering about, but I am sure he can! And look how fast he moves when he slaps his servants around!

Marti Schuller: About Jabba and the Force --Luke could not influence Jabba because of Jabba's immunity, but Leia's Force-strength acted on Leia, not on Jabba, when she killed him! I agree with you about Luke: well, who would not be on the sad side, depressed, serene, or even half-crazy after discovering that he has Vader for a daddy, that his uncle, aunt, his mentor, his Jedi master lied to him, that he fell in love with his own sister, that he was groomed to assassinate his own papa, and look, this simple farmboy takes it all with dignity, and a lot more sanity than most of us could!

Ming Wathne: You talk about the difficulties of writing in English. Is there anyone else, whose mother tongue is not English, or are you are referring only to me? In my defense, I can say that I do warn editors even before submitting a story and give them plenty of time to sweat over my work and I am immensely grateful for every drop of that sweat!

Maggie Nowakowska: I don't write in Italian, they translate me, and as much as I am able to judge, the translations are better than the original. Isn't their radio show book beautiful? About carbonite manacles: carbonite is not carbon; it is an alloy. I think Threepio says that. Again, yes, zines are expensive, but there is always Ming, the Library, blessed be her collection.

Tim Blaes: What an exciting question! What if Leia went to Tatooine? Hmm, but she never wanted to. She planned to go to her father, to give him the data ("My father will know how to retrieve it," she says). The question is: when she realized that the Imperials were going to arrest her, right over Tatooine, she remembered that Kenobi lived on Tatooine...now how did she know this? When all the world thought Ben dead? (Except Vader...and even Vader did not know where Ben was hiding.) Back to Leia: originally, she wanted to give the data to her father, then, after Alderaan was annihilated, she went straight to the rebels. Some things cannot be explained, I guess, because the story changed as the movies developed. Of course,

if we want to be really nasty, we could point out that on the first sketches, Luke was a girl, on the original card sets of SW, Luke and Leia aren't the same age, that in the original script, Jabba was a humanoid, and I am not even sure that Vader was ever meant to be the same guy as Anakin...remember how the Emperor said, "The son of Skywalker must not become a Jedi." Now, if the Emperor did not know that Vader was Skywalker, this sentence makes sense, but if the Emperor did know, then it is a very weird way to talk to a man about his own son! I think the Saga is endlessly fascinating, because there are a lot of unexplained and even quite messily patched-up bits in it, giving the fen enough puzzles for decades of delightful discussion!

Okay, one last question: In TESB, it is the Emperor who tells Vader, "We have a new enemy." How come that Palpatine knew about Luke before Vader did? Or at least learned of Luke's existence without Vader telling him? And if the Emperor knew that Luke was the "son of Skywalker", did Vader know it at the same time? Earlier? Or was it a complete surprise to him? And he suggested "turning" Luke, because he wanted to gain time to take a look at him? This holographic conversation deserves a better look! (*Ed: Stray thought injection here, Z.P. Perhaps Vader didn't know he was Anakin Skywalker at this point, part of his "rebuilding" by Palpatine so long ago. Perhaps only after dealing with Luke and feeling his Force-aura first hand did his memory return and he realized who Luke and he [Vader] were.*)



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September 19, 1991

First let me second Cheree's recommendation of *THE ROCKETEER*. It was lots of fun, despite being a tad slow. With a faster, more Indy-like pace, it might have caught on better with the general audiences. I vacationed for a week in Florida, mostly at DisneyWorld, and was able to see some of the costumes, the Gee Bee (the real Gee Bees were built here in Spfld., by the way), and the Bull Dog Cafe set at MGM. They also had stuff on Disney's upcoming, animated *BEAUTY & THE BEAST*. It looks terrific, with a very European fairy tale style. Lots of spooky forest, and so on. I'm very optimistic.

Of course I also went to the mecca of SW fans: STAR TOURS. I'd read articles, talked to friends who'd ridden it, but nothing prepared me. For a few minutes, my dreams had come true—I was in that "galaxy far, far away." It truly concentrates all of the thrills and fun of the films down into a few minutes. I still beam when I tell people how fabulous it is!

For Indy fans, there was a nice throw-away line in Barbara Hambly's B&B novelization *SONG OF ORPHEUS*. Catherine is at a book signing party (from the episode "Fever") and thinks to herself that the store has anything one might want in the field of archaeology, including "Jones' classic *Hovitos Treasure*."

I finally read *HEIR TO THE EMPIRE*. Ho-hum. Not bad, if you weren't expecting much, but not electrifying, either. If it were a ST novel, it would merely rate average. I have read worse, but also better, as so many others are saying. It felt like I was being talked down to. Many passages read: Imperials predict what the rebels will do next. Scene shifts to rebels, who say, "Here's what we'll do next." Deja vu all over again. Did Zahn have orders to write it so a young reader could follow it? (If so, he needs to read more juvenile fiction.) Does anyone know any younger folk who've read it? Their thoughts? I'd predict they found it too talky—I sure did. The action was there and fine, but the dialog dulled me.

About it being the first of a trilogy, I knew that before buying it, so no complaints from me. My suspicion is that George has thrown these out as a barometer for whether there's still interest in the Saga, to help decide whether to invest in the next film series. So in my mind, these books are an investment toward the future. It's been living on the best seller lists, so I hope that's a good sign.

Catherine Churko: Thanks for picking up on some of the points in my last LoC and for responding with such thought provoking questions of your own. Not that I have answers, but you did get me thinking.

About Vader not being shocked by finding a Force-user in the trench (ANH), maybe he'd encountered others in the past who had been unconscious Force-users? There doesn't seem to be any special gene or secret "pass word" to allow anyone access to the Force. It's open to anyone. Becoming conscious to it and learning how to harness it seems to be the trick (and thus the need for Jedi Masters/training). Perhaps many tap the Force for brief moments. We've all heard the stories of someone lifting up a Mack Truck to get out someone who's been trapped beneath—sudden super-human strength. This could be what Obi-Wan meant to Han, "In my experience, there's no such thing as luck." So someone accidentally tapping the Force, and Vader's picking up on it, would not surprise him all that much. There would still be worlds of difference from a true-Jedi or Force-user and someone who accidentally hit the right mental buttons to gain brief access to Force-control.

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: Re "The Emperor had to be always dark." I disagree. Building on those four stages of the Force in my LoC in #29, I see him moving straight into the dark, but at one point having been open to either path. I do not think he was born evil, nor do I think that of any person. It's one's life experiences that mold a person's character. That the Emperor is evil, we don't disagree, but there must have been something that drew him down the dark path. Ambition? Greed? I don't know, but hope to learn in the first trilogy—someday. I wonder if he had to have been "turned" evil? It could have just grown

inside him. Anakin was probably turned--by the Emperor. The Emperor could have been turned not by someone, but something. Note that I'm not saying there are redeeming qualities in him now. He is rotten to the core, as you said, but I am merely expressing my thoughts on how he got that way or whether he has been that way for all time.

Maggie N.: Agreed! One of Vader's best attributes is how he has given up on himself, on whether he can be saved from the Dark Side ("It is too late for me, son."). When he does find the strength to throw off his submission to Palpatine, well just mark that as one of the great moments in cinema history for this movie buff.

Auriette Hahn: Re Leia the Ambassador. I always think of her as a senator and often overlook Vader's asking for the "Ambassador." Ambassadors in our society are appointments, not elected offices, thus the argument I made over several issues of SE has been nicely blown out of the water (most will recall I felt Leia to have been too young/inexperienced to have been popularly elected). Perhaps their political system has ambassadors who are posted to the Imperial Senate, perhaps as representatives of their people, but with no voice or voting power. On the other hand, I cannot recall any other references to Leia as "Ambassador," so could that have been just a cover while aboard the Blockade Runner? The officer may have been told to bluff that there was some big-shot ambassador on board to discourage a search.

Tim Blaes: Re DARK SHADOWS' Joanna Going: She graced our regional theatre (Stage West) last season in a production of Tennessee Williams' "Suddenly Last Summer." I was in the second row for one show and enjoyed an excellent performance. All around, too, not just JG. Kim Hunter, from the PLANET OF THE APES films, was also in the cast. You'd be surprised how different she sounds outside of her DS role. She really put on a soft/vulnerable voice for Victoria, while she was a powerhouse on stage. I definitely would like to see her in more film/TV/stage work. Wonder Woman? I think Lynda Carter fit that part so perfectly (like Chris Reeve as Superman) that to try anyone else would be a letdown.

All my best hopes and prayers for all who

are experiencing trying times--personally or worrying about loved ones. May the Force be with all of you!

Bad Penny Brigade

Michelle Malkin
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September 24, 1991

First off, congratulations on SE winning its third Fan Q Award. That's one hell of an accomplishment. Aside from deserving it for putting out one of the best letterzines in fandom, you deserve it for having the stick-to-it-iveness to hang in with STAR WARS fandom through thick and thin. And your stubbornness is paying off. Many of us old-time SW fen are returning to the fandom. I guess you could refer to us as the Bad Penny Brigade. And, it looks like a lot of new people are joining the fandom, too. (Strange, the same thing seems to be happening in B7 fandom, too. Does anyone know if this is happening in any other fandoms?)

Our fractious Italian friends seem to be going through their own version of what we went through a few years back. I hope that they survive it, too. Getting along with each other is so much nicer than ripping each other's throats out.

Z. P. Florian: Palpatwinky?! People have been shot for less. In response to your question about Jabba the Hutt--perhaps he isn't a handsome male Hutt. Maybe he's a big, fat, extra-slimy male Hutt who turns off even female Hutts. Maybe this rejection turned him to his life of crime and his craving for skinny little female humans. Then again, maybe he was always a slob and pervert. Anyone want to discuss Hutttese psychology?

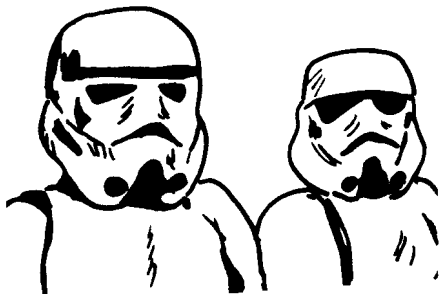
Sally Syrjala: I like your idea for a story about how Han came to trust the people involved

in the Alliance. I'd like to know just what exactly was going through his mind when he accepted his generalship. If he really is a disillusioned ex-soldier, this was quite a step for him to take. I'd also like to have seen and heard the first private conversation between Han and Leia after ROTJ. Aside from "What do you mean, he's your brother?" and "Does this mean we can finally get it on?", that is. The serious stuff. Recognizing pressure burnout, disillusionment and physical lust in each other is a great way to start, but where do they go from here?

Debbie Kittle: I agree with you 100% about not discouraging new fen who write stories about what is to them a new and sparkling idea. We've all been there, whether it's with a not-so-well written story that still shows promise or a piece of artwork from a beginning artist who isn't so hot yet but still shows promise of better things to come. I've printed both in my old SW zine (KESSEL RUN) and have seen both writers and artists who started out not so hot develop into really good writers and artists. All anyone ever needs is encouragement and constructive criticism. If the talent is there, it will develop.

Cheree: Does "IMO" stand for "in my opinion"? Any other abbreviations I should be aware of? ((Ed: You got it. "IMHO" is "in my humble opinion" and "RPG" is "role playing game." "OOP" is "out of print" and those are about the only ones I can think of that have come into usage recently. I think any others are standard, old-time FanSpeak.))

I'm going to have to keep this short since it is now 2:20 a.m. and I have to get up soon to go to work. (Sleep, what's that?) I hope that this letter isn't too disjointed or, at least, no more disjointed than my letters ever are. I also have to put the ad for my one remaining zine together—KESSEL RUN IV. (sigh) Look for it in the ad section. 'Til next issue. Fly free, everyone!



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September 22, 1991

At last, I have some comments on SE#28 and 29.

On 28:

Debbie Kittle: Isn't Alaska great? I've been to Southeast Alaska three times. Actually, Glacier Bay isn't on Prince William Sound; it's on the Inside Passage north of Juneau. Don't kid yourself about the oil spill; the effects are still there and will be felt for some time to come. Did you see any whales while you were there?

Jacqueline Taero: Yes, I want a zine to look good and contain good writing before I will spend my hard-earned money on it. However, I have bought zines for the writing only, even though they may not have looked "professional."

Certainly I prefer stories that contain characters I am familiar with. But I don't mind at all reading stories with created characters. I would be interested in reading your work if it should be printed.

I enjoy reading SE immensely, even if I don't always have time to write. But if Cheree decided to move on to other things, I would certainly understand.

On 29:

HEIR TO THE EMPIRE was a good read. I thought the author got the characters down very well and the plot was intriguing. Perhaps he used the phrase "just before the darkness took him" once too often.

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: Very good observations on human nature and on Han, Luke and Leia facing their dark sides as being the extreme fulfillment of their desires. I enjoyed it.

Donna Frayser: I love the Peter Winsey stories. The Masterpiece Theater dramatizations were great.

Matthew Whitney: I think Mary Jean Holmes presents Han as a "shadowsider" in her stories, neither light nor dark, but a mix of both, sort of neutral.

Did anyone see the meteor showers? Unfor-

tunately, it was overcast here.

Sorry this is so short. Hope everyone is well, family included. My dad recently had bypass surgery, and is doing very well, but it was an anxious time. My sympathies are with all who suffered loss of a loved one or illness in their families.



Catherine Churko
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September 27, 1991

Greetings, SE family. Here's hoping that the summer has had good things and times for you all, that fall going into the end of 1991 will continue that way or have the promise of better situations coming to pass.

Our Realm: How many times have you read "The Empire Strikes Out" as a headline for articles on the changes in the Soviet Union? Talk about a get-real-personal-with-your-TV-situation while watching the coup un- and re-fold. And all the events that have proceeded from that. Changes, indeed!

Even seeing the eclipse "live" on color TV was mesmerising! I couldn't believe how beautiful and delicate looking the corona was, the waving streams of pearly white. Perhaps only a high resolution big screen TV could have picked up the red/orange prominences hugging the orb which I saw in a next-day photo.

And speaking of sf into reality, someone should tell the Ghostbusters boys and Mary Jean Holmes that Solo may not stay too techno-snobby for long. (In MJH's cross-universe GB/SW comedy, Hangloated rather gleefully over his Universe's ability to construct not micro-circuitry and power but molecular-sized components). IBM just announced (while they project a ten-year development period), the ability now to move a single xenon atom between two points/poles, to act as an off/on switch. This basically means being able to reduce or pack in circuitry a thousandfold. (Yes, I am dazzled by technowizardry, even as I wish we could shrink negative tendencies like bigotry/fear/greed the same amount to free up our minds for much greater living.)

Other Realms: I've been meaning to say this for issues, to all the Pern fans. My mom picked up (library sale) "Dragon Flight" last summer for me. I enjoyed it and eventually found the other two volumes. You know I'm not a big fantasy/medieval person but I did enjoy them. Good drama and very clever ideas. And, of course, the dragons and firelizards were wonderful! I was disappointed in the comic version, though, with a quick glance through #2. I thought that looked a little better.

The new Tolkien calendar for 1992 seems to me one of the most impressive in a while. Didn't see a SW one yet (maybe last year's was a new trial balloon).

Big Trek on TV this weekend. And the new Next Gen season. Fun time -- although I hope they don't spend too much of the season on the Klingon conflict. There are supposed to be some good, interesting themes upcoming. (But

NG has been quite steadily getting better and better.)

SWzinedom: Ahhh, here we are. Congrats on your Fan Q, Cheree. It's good to see the crew roster back again. The other suggestions sound good, too.

Welcome to Auriette, Jennifer, Leanne and Donna. So nice that even more folk have found SE and LoC'd.

A creative welcome to Anette. Funny cartoons. Thanks, Mary for inviting your pal in.

Z.P.: Sometimes when I'm very impressed with a story I have to get the pencil/pen and do up a bunch of sketches (whether "finished" or not) based on the text (of course, I have done this all through my reading years). I did about 19 quarter-paged illos based on "Missing, Part 2", after spending a day sketching out the various characters. Liked your language "addressing" examples.

Sally: I feel pretty similar in terms of reading subtle/clever/unusual variations on well-trodden storylines as well as totally new ideas/worlds and issues. But as a visualist, I crave good stories to illo, as well as doing my own ideas, and crave good illos that other artists do.

Judith: Thank you for picking up the awards bandwagon (are you sure someone hasn't been feeding you Jawa Joy Juice?). The survey was good detailed questions/ideas for operations. Yes, MWC is a blast!

Chris G.: The Jabba question was an interesting one. "Hunt down" could be stretched. Maybe the Hutts had an anti-grav mobile platform if we are leaning on the more literal side. They could have had some close contact in an adversarial encounter since Jabba said the Jedi's mind tricks didn't work on him (by extension — all Hutts?).

Marti: Howdy. Yes, I forgot to say how well detailed Mary's and Cheree's "how to" zine article was. (But then they've been on the Joy Juice for years!) Hey, you bet (re your stories); only hope new inspiration might guide your pen again in the SW universe.

Jennifer: Well, don't be too shy. A long time ago (in this galaxy), junior high school and high school gave me writing/literature phobias and SWzinedom is one of the biggest factors in helping me overcome it.

Fiorenzo: You and Cheryl have some good points about the Emperor. I'd automatically assumed he did have his powers. I do hope in the prequel we will find out how Palpie obtained his Force powers. Marti has a good idea with him being evil from a young age and coming under the tutelage of the Sith.

To go further and pick up on your later remarks about canon/non-canon stuff, here are some other possible contradictions. I'm quoting from the first SW book which was written by George, so he himself could be changing his mind or being deliberately obtuse, etc. In the book... "Soon [Palpatine] was controlled by the very assistants and boot-lickers he had appointed to high office, and the cries of the people for justice did not reach his ears." ("Once secure in his office, he declared himself Emperor, shutting himself away from the populace.") (*Ed: To set the record straight, the novelization of STAR WARS: A NEW HOPE was actually written by Alan Dean Foster but published under Lucas' name.*)

That doesn't appear like the impression we get by JEDI, I think. True, we don't know really how many people know about the Emp's powers, although every time Vader threatens any underlings on the DS II or elsewhere with the Emp's appearance or displeasure, they get pretty upset!

More questions and ideas: If Palpie is a "Force-natural", was he taught by the Sith or some other evil-leaning sect/group, etc? Was a corrupted Jedi always a Sith? Who were the Sith? In the book, George also says, "Fear follows in the footsteps of all the Dark Lords", so who and where are these other Dark Lords of the Sith? One last idea... What if Palpatine had been a Jedi, turned greedy, faked a disappearance and started to learn to corrupt his Force powers on his own or by whatever teachers? (I think that's far-fetched but if anyone likes that idea, go run with it. Just send me a copy of your story.)

Maggie: Hi. You and Susan should do up some of your ISS Nowhere. I love silliness and satire! *grin*

Sounds like you and Susan had a grand ol' time in Italy! Thank you for a well-detailed article of your adventure and overview of SW fandom on the other side of the ocean. Also,

a more personal thank you for mentioning me in a fandom "network" in zine production. Having felt first physically isolated with my injury, then later just psychologically so, due to continued low finance interfering with easy access to all my out of town friends, this was a nice symbolic contact.

I'd love to see a copy of that Gordon Carleton cartoon. He's so good...I always look at STARLOG for his and Leah Rosenthal's cartoons.

In my first story (a prequel), I assume (probably from the "Obi-Wan once thought as you did..." that Ben snuck after Anakin, after he knew Anakin was changing, to find out who he was working with. He eventually finds out that it's the Emperor himself. He then goes on to confront Anakin several times, each time being rejected until the final confrontation on the volcanic planet. I won't give it all away but it's only after Anakin is so damaged that he decided as he recovers and receives all the cybernetic equipment and clothing that he changes his name. So, it's sort of similar to your theme of being rejected twice. (It's a pre-fandom story.)

I liked that LoC filk. I have not always written zine LoCs because I just won't write short comments (oh, you didn't know I was a motormouth?). But between several SE commentaries, I was guilted inspired into sending off hefty Locs to the 2 zines I was able to get in the last 1-1/2 years. For me, as a person slowly learning about writing and still taking in SW fans's voluminous commentary after having only little amounts all during the original films' releases and after, I enjoy reading LoCs. It's like (again) a one-way kind of con-on-paper gathering. In fact, because I've missed MWC these past 2 years and most likely next year's as well, SE & LoCs in zines become even more important. Even if so few people comment on the art in a big way. I do look at the older zines and hope there will be a string of detailed LoCs. At least seeing more and more new SE faces is a hopeful sign. Thanks also for your history/future SW zine fan's thoughts.

And thank you very much for relaying all the "children of Nazis" comments. I heard brief excerpts myself quickly from a (probably)

NPR radio show and was very moved by their searing experiences. I too thought of using them as a real life example for those fans who thought it would be relatively easy for Luke to find out who Daddy was before he confronted him or for Leia and Luke after they both knew and how it might affect their self-images.

Leanne: Yes, I felt cheated that George did not have a scene where Luke told Leia about Vader/Anakin on the DSII. I did several little comic style sketches around it to satisfy myself.

Auriette: What I know about "Dark Empire" is it takes place 3 years three after Endor, they are pushing to the Center of the Galaxy where there are still many Imperial strongholds. So it still could be done. And since I love art, I hope someone will (and do it well--though Rick Veith as a writer is a very interesting choice) sometimes.

Tim: Speaking of gonzo, do you know (it just came on) Black Flag's song "TV Party Tonight"? Gonzo commentary on Couch Potatoes. I might be able to russle up a little gonzo crossverse cartoon; we'll try, if you're not all done by the time I send it.

All: My arm's doing much better, though it still aches and gets stiff off and on a fair amount in the higher (past shoulder-level) positions. It's seemingly going to take another 6-12 months to get the highest positions and probably not quite 100% range of motion there. One good thing--it has forced me to exercise in order to get well. I've never had much upper body strength and I decided to work on both shoulders/pecs lifts. Having enough trouble with 3 & 5 lb. weight tells you how little I have (though I can carry about 25 lbs. downward on each shoulder--I know because coming home from my first MWC, I added about 10 plus extra zine lbs. to my baggage)!

I'm really getting into job-hunting. Temp work has been too spotty with economy without high typing skills. Do have my first publishing house interview this week. It will be interesting by the time I get this SE just where I do end up for now--I do hope it's publishing but we'll see).

Artwork (portfolio-wise) is slowly plodding along but we are determined (sometimes grimly, sometimes joyfully) to get it out there. Doing

some SWzine art (yea). Determined to get that higher than my paltry 1 illo/year and so far it's coming along. That illo of mine in #29 was done with my right (non-dominant) hand (I was so proud) while recovering.

I look forward to the new zines, whether I can afford them or not. It's great to know those who have done so and keep going are doing so and getting new folks to try their hands at it. Thanks to all attempts!

Almost forgot—my library finally managed to get HEIR. He writes pretty well, although I certainly have read more consistently lyrical writing from some of "our" gang. Does have some good ideas whether he has delved much emotionally or not. (He could do a little more of it.) Maggie, I tried reading one C. J. Cherryh and practically turned blue from trying just to follow her writing! The admiral, assassins and pirate were good. I only got to read it once and will have to get it out again for more commentary.

I'm disappointed that WOOKIEE COMMODE is closing. But having said that, I'll do a big Wookiee celebration dance for all the drama, lyricism, art and special mix of silly, sassy, dry and absurd humor that arrived with each issue! Thank you, Mary and Samia for some amazing and rollicking times (and thanks for letting me play in your Tatooine sandbox!).

Everyone stay or be well. Be thinking, LoCing and creating happily away. Hey, now I can say it in Italian or French, but I'll say it in English—May the Force be with you.



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September 30, 1991

Sorry I missed issue #29. The fact is, ever since MediaWest, I've made so many contacts and been so absorbed in fannish correspondence that deadlines have just passed me by. Also the fact that Dan and I bought a canoe this summer may have something to do with it...

Thanks to all you Enclavers who responded to my previous letters. No time for specific rebuttals now, but I'll try to do better next issue.

Z. P. Florian has my permission to borrow my "brilliant but unreliable Luke" idea. Go to it, Z.P.! (Gosh, I'll have to be careful what I throw out around here...)

I concur with the majority view of HEIR TO THE EMPIRE. Zahn has done a remarkable tight-rope act here: keeping the characters true to themselves, giving us a real page-turning adventure without rocking Lucas' boat (sorry, these canoeing images keep creeping in). As for the new characters, I found them pretty dull, except for Thrawn, perhaps. I thought it was neat how Zahn kept sneaking in little allusions to Vader all through the story, culminating in the marvelous scene where the Noghri recognizes Leia's parentage by scent!! (Gee, never knew Leia smelled like metal and leather before! Or had she accidentally sprayed on some of Han's English Leather after-shave that morning? Hee hee hee!) ((Ed: I can just see the holo-ad: "All my men wear Corellian Leather...or they wear nothing at all.") My favorite scenes were Luke's encounter with the Imperial ship, his daring maneuvers, the breakdown of the x-wing, stranded in space with R2D2...great stuff! But like many of you, I found that once I had finished HTE, I felt little urge to read it again. I'll be standing in line for Volume 2, though. Hope there'll be more about Ackbar, Mon Mothma, et al.

Everybody: I'm in desperate need of the "David Prowse Fan Club Newsletter," any issues. As these are no longer available from the source (I assume), is it unethical of me to ask

for photocopies?

Too Real?

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Knock, knock!
"Who's there?"
"Princess Leia!" "Princess WHO?"
"Princess Leia down, ya look tired!"

(This from a stupid CHILDREN'S SPACE JOKES book I saw at the Museum store of the Reuben H. Fleet Space Theater/Museum in Balboa Park, San Diego).

(Accompanied by a caricature of Captain Solo!)

Hi there!

I just returned to Germany after 4 fun-filled weeks in San Diego and vicinity. Amazing just how fast time flies when you're having fun. 4 weeks seemed like 4 days.

While in SD I took a side trip to Disneyland and did the Star Tours ride 5 times! Do you get it that I liked that ride?

It was on one of those rides that I was painfully reminded of how old I am already. A family of four (Dad in his mid-thirties, Mom in her late twenties or early thirties, two boys of about 7 and 4...wild guesses) was waiting next to me in line. Upon seeing the "Boarding Instructions" video on the overhead TV, the wee one inquired what this was all about (he'd probably never before seen any Wookies, Ewoks, Mon Calamari or creatures like Tee-Rees). And Daddy's answer to Junior's question: "Awww—that was a movie, once ...a long time ago!"

All of a sudden I felt like Yoda...very, very old!!!!

Getting off the ride, I overheard two men in their thirties (dreamy-eyed, probably first generation SW junkies) raving about the ride.

One to the other: "Ya know...what I'd really love to see is all three parts of SW—in the same 3-D-quality as *Captain EO*...and on this flight simulator. Now, wouldn't that be something?"

I heartily (silently) agreed. Amen to that, brother! But then...think about it for a moment. 6+ hours on a flight simulator, roller-coastering through 3-D-Space... I bet after just about 40 minutes, 80% of the audience would be pulling a "Daniel Boone" (i.e. go out and shoot their breakfast). And then...how far can you take the "special effects", George Lucas? What would the special effects be like during the infamous "Han on the grid" torture scene? Or the "Luke gets zapped by Palpie" scene? Would electric jolts from the chairs fry the viewer's tender parts to a crisp??? [Ouch!] And what about the carbon freeze scene? Would the audience get icicled by gusts of -30 F air being blown into the auditorium? [Brrrr...winter coats optional]. And [shudder to think about it] the "Luke loses his hand on Cloud City" scene? Would there be miniature guillotines on the armrests of each chair, chopping off limbs of unsuspecting onlookers?

Thanks, but no thanks, guys. This is a bit too realistic for me!

Thumbing through the San Diego phonebook, I discovered a Mark Brody, a Willie Scott, an S. Round, a Henry Jones and a Henry G. Jones, Jr.—as well as a guy named SOLO living on FALCON Street!!

I nearly choked. Do you now understand why I love to spend my off-time in SD?

Oh, yeah—and there is also a retired Navy captain named Hamill living in San Diego. Is that Skywalker's old man?

No, I'm NOT kidding. I swear it's the truth and nothing but the same.

While in Diego I went all the way across the bay to see REGARDING HENRY at the ole "Village" theater in Coronado. A true blue 1950's suburb flea-bag of a cinema. REGARDING HENRY came as a double feature with HE SAID, SHE SAID...all for just 3 bucks. Call that a square deal.

Some critics called this film mushy and too sweet. I liked it. OK, so it is very mushy (Rating: 3 Kleenex and a bucket), but that macho vulnerability displayed by HF (he remind-

ed me of an overgrown kid) was CUTE! Great hurt/comfort stuff for the "Beat-up-the-Ford-guy"-faction.

Say, is that a recent picture of Hamill in that newspaper article (SE#29) on Skywalker turning 40? If it is, he's the prime candidate for the next remake of PETER PAN. How does he manage to avoid aging? He looks like an 18 years old kid. Amazing! He would also have been a much better choice for the role of Billy the Kid in YOUNG GUNS.

I picked up a copy of HEIR TO THE EMPIRE. It's not bad and makes for a few hours of enjoyable reading. A funny thing on the side: look at the pic of the author on the back-cover...aren't those pins on his collar from an entirely different galactic saga? I still have such pins, and they definitely belong on the collar of a Colonial Warrior (Battlestar Galaxative...uh, Garlctica... I meant to say: Battlestar Ponderosa... WRONG AGAIN? Aww--forget it.)

About the story: Could anyone out there please tell me why Luke can still use his x-wing when--according to his own saying--he dropped out of the service 4 years ago??? Was it an army surplus...was it so adjusted to R2 that it could not be used by any other pilot/droid team and therefore had to go with Luke and R2 when they left the service??? EXPLANATIONS HERE!!!!

The new Imperial commander is quite an interesting character. Some of the plot line seems to have sprung right out of the fanzines, only less adult in nature (unfortunately, I should say). AND WHEN WILL SKYWALKER JR. EVER GET LAID????!!

All in all, I'm looking forward to the next volume.

Cheree: I hope that by the time you read this your parents will be recovering (or will have recovered) from their illnesses and be feeling fine. You suffer from arthritis? EGAD! Some (so-called "experts") say that a change in diet will help (vegetarian). Wish I knew a good remedy. How about: Try the Force? (Uh...sorry, Yoda. I know there is no try.)

A penpal/artist/writers column? Neat. Hey, you far-out space nuts...if anyone would like to write me (loveletters, gift packages, money

orders always welcome): Go ahead!

"Regarding Harrison" was cute. What a crazy idea, this interview. Next time I hope WE are asked to come up with questions for an HF interview. I could think of a few neat ones I'm dying to hear his answers to. So, Harrison is ticklish "under the right circumstances". ??? Now, which parts of the human body are called "circumstances"? And he's only ticklish under the right one (not the left)? How strange! Oh, you mean I misunderstood this? Sorry. Actually, I'd love to find out all those right circumstances that will make him squeal. (Do you mind, Melissa?)

He can't sing? Aww--c'mon, hon! We know better than that. After all, he did sing in the original version of AMERICAN GRAFFITI ("Some enchanted evening...") and it didn't sound all that bad to me.

Regarding "Luke turns 40"... What was that about jobs you can't lose, kid? Which jobs would that be? Sithlord or Jedi Master...? As a "hired hand"--no matter what business you're in--you are in constant danger of meeting the axe. As a self-employed artist, handi-man or businessman you can go bankrupt quite easily. So, what's safe?

LOVED Mark's response to the passing away of Emily McLaughlin. May the Force be with her...awww...

I got a kick out of Z. P. Florian's and M. Nowakowska's explanations of who would have to address whom how were the story set in Hungary or Italy. Let me try to find out what the mess would be like if the folks were talking German...

In general:

You address formally: all persons whom you regard with respect; all persons whom you do not know (i.e. all strangers); all persons whom you have not befriended yet; all persons past the age of 14; a person with whom you are normally talking informal, if you want to express alienation.

You address informally: all persons whom you are related to (unless you want to express alienation); all persons whom you have befriended; all children under the age of 14; a person with whom you are normally talking formal, if you want to express disrespect/open contempt. In particular:

Han to:
(formal, friendly or cold) Vader, Palpie, all Imperials, all Rebels (unless close friends during off-duty hours), Ben, Yoda, Luke and Leia before befriending them.
(informal) Chewie, Lando, the droids, Luke & Leia after making friends, fellow troopers during off-duty hours, Jabba (to show his disrespect).

Luke to:
(formal, friendly or cold) Vader, Palpie, all Imperials, all Rebels (unless close friends during off-duty hours), Ben (before friendship was offered on Kenobi's side/kinship revealed), Yoda—unless friendship offered by Yoda; Han, Lando and Chewie before making friends, Leia (before friendship offered/kinship revealed).
(informal) The droids, Uncle Owen, Aunt Beru, Biggs, fellow rebels during off-duty hours; Ben, Han, Lando, Leia, Chewie after befriending them; possibly Anakin...after accepting him as his father.

Leia to:
(formal, friendly or cold) Vader, Palpie, all Imperials, all Rebels (unless close friends during off-duty hours), Ben, Yoda; Han, Lando, Chewie, Luke (before friendship offered/kinship revealed).
(informal) The droids, all her friends and possibly Anakin, after accepting him as her father, Bail Organa.

Vader to:
(formal, cold) Palpie, all Imperials, all Rebels, Ben (to express alienation).
(informal) Luke (cool before the Cloud City incident, after that increasingly warmer), possibly the same with Leia; the droids.

Ben to:
(formal, cold to friendly) Palpie, the Imperials, the Rebels, Han, Lando, Chewie, Leia (to express his respects for her status as princess/senator).
(informal) Luke (since he knew him from day one), possibly Yoda (being a very old cronie), maybe Vader/Anakin (in answer to his icy formality to show his disrespect), the droids, Beru/Owen.

C-3PO to:
(formal) all people—except R2D2 and other droids.

Geez—things DO get complicated...let's

forget about this whole mess. Thanks to the Force and George Lucas for making English the "basic" language.

Donna Frayser: There is another...besides "Mary Sue to the rescue" there is also the never-ending fun of alternate endings ("what if's"). You could, for instance, turn the saga into a soap opera, a sitcom, make it a cross-over with whatever show appeals to you...*ad infinitum* (*ad nauseum*). I'm momentarily knitting a lengthy epistle that takes up after ROTJ, with Darthie surviving, that's turning more and more into a spoof with each finished sentence. When I reach the last page, it will probably have turned into a Laurel-and-Hardy slapstick routine. Created characters can be neat, too. They, of course, will have to fit perfectly into the Saga. Mary Sue's are tricky...for obvious reasons. But every once in a while a decent one crops up.

Debbie Kittle: Maybe the Force is divided into one "Light" and one "Dark" side, with an ever so fine line separating the two...the line on which most of us do balance like tightrope-walkers. Lose your balance...and off you go. You can take a wrong step (unwillingly or deliberately) and "fall into the black hole" of hate, crime, fear...or you can (deliberately—kind of like a "jump of faith") step off into the "light". Something that only very, very determined few will ever accomplish. Think about the common struggle of nuns, priests or others who decided to lead a life devoted to goodness, forgiveness, love and understanding...just how many times are there when their devotions will be sorely tested, being asked to love where hate would be so much more natural and human, being asked to peacefully hold their ground instead of either fighting with claws and teeth—or running and hiding, to believe when there's nothing left to believe in...

Regarding your answer to Chris Graham (Leia possibly being "middle age"): I agree with you in not seeing Leia as being middle aged or having a shorter life-span. It was not all that uncommon in our planet's history that persons at a very tender age ascend to the throne or get into powerful positions. Often because they inherited the power/position from their ancestors. In some societies to this day

child-rulers are especially selected and put into power. A good example for this would be the Dalai Lama of Tibet. If the old Lama dies, the monks will search the country for his reincarnation in form of a baby boy. When sure that the right one (the reincarnated Lama) has been found, the child is then brought to the monastery to be raised as the new ruler.

We don't know just how many people knew about Leia's true ancestry, but as the daughter of a powerful Jedi knight and Sithlord and adoptive daughter of viceroy Bail Organa who provided her with the title of "princess", she had all the right advantages to come into power while still in her teens.

Catherine Churko: By now you and your Dad will (hopefully) have fully recovered from the fractures suffered performing your bone-bending circus acts. Leave these stunts to the guy with the whip. Not being able to use your arm also gives you the golden opportunity to work on and perfect your telekinetic skills, young Jedi. (OK, I'll shut up!)

You want to dress Baby Skywalker differently? Be my guest. Why should that poor kid forever run around in the same ol' rags? Just refrain from garbing him in his old man's hand me downs...they might be just a tad big for him. And, uh...by the way, you shouldn't dress him, but rather undress that yummy little figure!

"Humpty Dumpty" Anakin? Geez—you had the

same idea I had (still have) when the helmet came off. I had pictured his face being rather masculine, rough-hewn, with strong jaws, well defined cheekbones, dark ("Leia") eyes under ironically arched black brows, and (at least remnants of) (once) dark hair. Scars I did expect, even considerable deformation...but a snowy white, cracked egg with tired-looking red-rimmed blue orbs, blue (heart attack in progress!) lips, and the facial expression of a stranded seal pup? Sorry, George, but THAT was by no means the Anakin Skywalker I expected to find. Wonder whom they will pick to portrait Darthie in the first trilogy? Mind you, it won't be easy to find a guy the size of Dave Prowse. Especially one with enough talent and looks for this role.

Hey, sounds like everybody has a great (great???) time at MWC. I envy you people. You get to go to the "Con of all Cons", and what about moi? Life ain't fair. Tim Blaes, you did WHAT? You "bit the head off" of whom? You mean, he let you actually do this to him? Uh...you mean I misunderstood something here? (Shutting up, Sir!)

OK, I better come to a close. I'm misusing my office typewriter for this (it is also the very same typewriter I type my vignettes/novellas on...in between business mail). So, 'til the next time...hang in there, Forceusers. See/read you all in SE#30.

Safe landings...

(continued from page 8) foot the unemployment bills. Long story, but benefit-wise, we would be better off that way. And my job hunt had paid off, too. On September 11, I went to work on a trial basis for a mid-size lawfirm. We suited each other very well and I began work there full-time on October 16 as their word processing system manager. It's an exciting job and I'm really having to cram to learn all that I need to know. So far I'm keeping my head above water. But it's a challenging and interesting job and I'm enjoying it.

Meanwhile, as of this writing (the first week of November), Randy still has a job. He

survived the first round of involuntary layoffs at the end of October. But we haven't gotten our hopes up too high. TI isn't through with the layoffs and we are just going from payday to payday, always preparing for the next one to be the last one. Gee, I can't imagine why I've had to start taking my stomach medicine again...

Anyway, hope the holidays are happy ones for everyone. A safe and prosperous 1992 to all of you! See you next time!





ANOTHER SILV... 1

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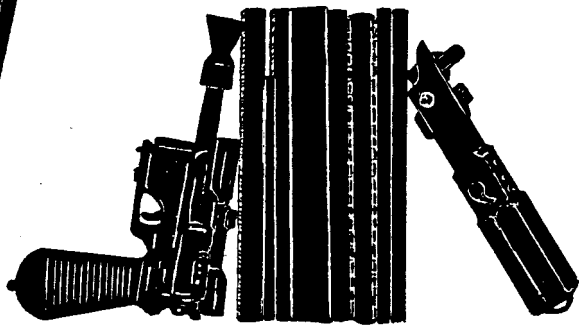
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ing "Chance Encounter" by Kate Birkel. Tommy Lillard was minding his own business when the strangest looking thing he'd ever seen fell out of the sky—with a beautiful, sharp-tongued princess on board. "The One That Got Away" by Cypher. Han had a lead on the most fabulous jewels in the galaxy. Now, all he had to do was dive to the bottom of an ocean, contact the local piscine inhabitants and convince them to lead him to their treasure. "Remembrance" by Carolyn Golledge. Han and Leia had returned to Corell to find a sacred icon that had belonged to Han's family, shortly before the family holding was destroyed by Imperial troops. Without it, Han could never proclaim his true identity. Much more by Ann Wortham, Marci Erwin, Jeannie Webster and Elizabeth Wilson. Poetry by Martie Benedict-O'Brien, Pat Nussman, Jacqueline Taero, Patricia D'Orazio, Sarah Macht-Dewitt and others. Art by Wanda Lybarger, Martynn, Dianne Smith, Dani, Jim Markle and Barbara Frances-Simon. Note—some material is slightly on the adult side. \$15.00 first class. Make checks payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043. SASE us about limited reprints of CP #2.

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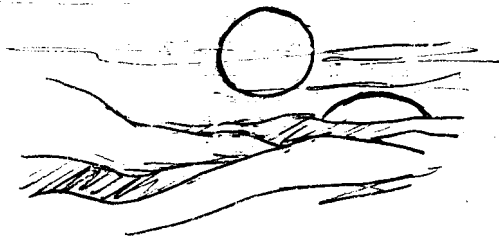
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ANOTHER SKY... Will Star Wars fandom support a new bi-annual Lukezine? There's only one way to find out! Please send any art, stories, poems, etc. that feature Luke or original characters within the SW universe to "Another Sky...", M. Guttierrez, 6017 West End Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124-1933, or L. Cherry, 4137 Ames Blvd., Lot 83, Morrero, LA 70072-9998. Help us bring back the romance and magic that made SW different and inspiring! A.S. issue #1 planned for late summer. 100+ pages, color, signed and numbered cover, lots of other surprises. No Slash material will be accepted.

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OTHER WORLDS

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Pat Nussman
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Samia Martz
920 Morehouse Lane
St. Louis, MO 63130

After making a film in Paris earlier this year *Star Wars* actor Mark Hamill is pleased to be back in America with his wife and family. The film, tentatively titled *War Song*, also stars screen Dracula, Christopher Lee. Not due for release until next year, it is a love story set in Berlin in 1939 and features Mark as a soldier. Pictured here after a trip to the roller rink with his wife Marilu, boys Nathan, 10, Griffin, seven, and baby daughter Chelsea, one, Mark looks every bit the proud father. ▼



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